

FOOTBALL
YS RIDING
MEMORIES
GLORIOUS



THE MONARCHY
Why we are lucky
to have the Prince
Valerie Grove interview, p17



DAN MASKELL
Tributes to the
voice of tennis
Obituary, p21; Sport, p44



ARTS
The vital role of
business sponsors
Special extra section

**INFOTECH
ON FRIDAY**
Section 2
Pages 31-33

THE TIMES

No. 64,513

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11 1992

45p



Power to the people: President Yeltsin punching home his message to workers at a car factory in Moscow yesterday. He called for a referendum on who governs Russia

Bomb cover for the City withdrawn by insurers

By SARAH BAGNALL

AS ANOTHER bomb exploded in the capital yesterday, the Corporation of London was told by its insurers that its property worth up to £6 billion will not be covered against terrorist bombings from the end of the year.

The decision by a dozen companies, including Commercial Union and Sun Alliance, the corporation's main insurers, to withdraw cover comes after weeks of negotiation and leaves City landmarks and such listed buildings as the Mansion House and Guildhall without any cover against terrorism. The corporation owns nearly a third of City property.

The news that insurers are already beginning to refuse to renew cover has intensified the need for a quick solution to the problem. But the government, which has expressed deep concern over the issue, is publicly at loggerheads with the insurance industry over who should underwrite the costs of mainland UK bomb attacks.

The Association of British Insurers is adamant that the government should shoulder the entire burden, but the government is insisting on a commercial solution.

Ten injured, page 6

Yeltsin fights back over 'creeping coup'

FROM ANNE MCILVOY
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA faced a constitutional crisis last night after President Yeltsin launched an all-out attack on the country's highest legislature, accusing it of preparing a "creeping coup", and called for a referendum on who rules the country.

Mr Yeltsin then turned directly to his people in search of the million signatures he needs to secure the plebiscite denied him by parliament. Having brought to a head the power clash between the government and the Congress of People's Deputies, the president sped to a Moscow car factory where he urged workers to keep their faith in reforms and to begin collecting signatures.

In the Kremlin, Mr Yeltsin had denounced the assembly as a reactionary body intent on undermining his government, blocking reform and seeking to drive a wedge between the legislature and the executive. He issued a warning that the clash could end in violence.

"Congress is a bulwark of conservative forces and reaction," he said. "Reform in Russia is in serious danger. What they failed to do in August 1991, they have decided to repeat now by way of a creeping coup. We are being pushed towards a dangerous brink beyond which there is nothing but destabilisation

President Yeltsin believes the people of Russia will back him in his reforms battle with the Congress of People's Deputies. He fears violence on the streets

and economic chaos. We are being pushed towards civil war." A referendum was "the only way out of this profound crisis of power".

Beginning his address "citizens of Russia", with the shocked deputies mentioned only secondarily, the president made clear that he no longer intended to try to reach a compromise with the legislature, which he accused of seeking to exercise power without responsibility. "I ask the citizens of Russia to determine what side they are on and what course they support: that of the president or the Supreme Soviet and its chairman. This must be done to save stability in Russia."

But Mr Yeltsin's call for a referendum next month to amend the constitution and dissolve Congress was rejected, and the assembly countered with a demand for presidential and congressional elections. Russian Khasbulatov, the Congress chairman, attacked by Mr Yeltsin, suggested that the president should be impeached for violating the constitution by his move against the assembly.

while the head of the constitutional court urged the government and Congress to find a way out of their deadlock, threatening to investigate the legality of both sides' actions.

Mr Yeltsin then went straight to the Lenin Komsomolsk factory to drum up support among workers who shouted: "Good luck, Boris Nikolayevich" and "We are with you." At the



same time, thousands of demonstrators both for and against Mr Yeltsin gathered on Red Square to trade insults as news of the referendum call spread. Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's mayor, said he would take all steps necessary to avoid mass disturbances as tensions rose inside and outside the Congress hall. Pavel Grachev, the defence minister, pledged to keep the army out of the conflict. "We shall not let the armed forces be pulled into solving political battles," he said. "The situation is under control."

But Mr Yeltsin's opponents, including Aleksandr Rutskoi, his vice-president, intend to fight to save Congress, the main platform of conservative politicians. Mr Rutskoi accused Mr Yeltsin of provoking destabilisation by his attack on the legislature. "Any line that leads to a split in the country carries with it a threat to social peace," he said.

On Wednesday, Congress refused to endorse Mr Yeltsin's candidate, Yegor Gaidar, as prime minister, despite accepting the president's offer of giving parliament control over four key ministries. This snub was the last straw for the government, which has been struggling to get the reform package and constitutional amendments approved.

Proletariat rallies, page 14

Major aims to salvage summit with new cash ideas

By PHILIP WEBSTER
IN EDINBURGH

BRITAIN last night made a fresh attempt to break the threatened deadlock at the two-day Edinburgh summit by tabling new budget proposals to give more money to its poorer states.

But it appeared to be on course for a new dispute with the European Commission president, Jacques Delors, since there is no change under the revised plan to the proposal that the overall EC budget should be £60.5 billion in 1999. A senior commission official described it as "terrible".

However, by redistributing the money and drawing small sums from reserves, an extra £900 million is proposed for the four-nation European

Fighter Aircraft was officially saved in what was seen as a victory for Britain.

Risks surrendered, page 11
Go-ahead hailed, page 24

the "cohesion" fund which benefits Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Greece.

Community leaders were studying the proposals last night, but Commission officials said that the increases — accompanied by only small adjustments to the larger "structural funds" for the smaller countries — would be unlikely to satisfy most of the southern states, since they would still receive £4 billion less than under proposals put forward by M Delors earlier this year.

Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, said the proposals were inadequate, adding: "The Spanish delegation will not allow any kind of partial solution. If there is an answer to the Danish problem and there is no answer to the question of the financial package, then the summit will not have overall success." Asked whether he thought there would be an overall deal, he replied: "Probably not."

Besides the new proposals on future financing, which will be discussed at today's summit, continued on page 13, col 4

Analysis, pages 12, 13
Nicholas Ridley, page 18
Diary, page 18
Leading article
and letters, page 19

Princess sends best wishes, but may not go to wedding

By ALAN HAMILTON AND NICHOLAS WOOD

BUCKINGHAM Palace and senior ministers yesterday sought to damp down speculation and anxiety over the future possibility of a separated Princess of Wales becoming queen.

Wednesday's announcement that the Prince of Wales and the princess were to separate has sparked a heated debate on the prospect of a new king and queen, having lived separate lives for many years, riding to their coronation in separate carriages.

Evidence of a new and more detached role for the princess was immediately evident yesterday. She sent a message of best wishes to her sister-in-law, the Princess Royal, who is to marry Commander Timothy Laurence in Scotland tomorrow. There could be no clearer indication that she has absented herself from the guest list, and that the prince will attend alone.

Buckingham Palace emphasised that John Major's assertion to the Commons that there was no reason why the princess should not become queen was intended only as a statement of the legal and constitutional position under a separation, and in no way intended as prediction of what might or might not happen. Constitutionalists are agreed that, should separation proceed to divorce, an entire new situation would arise.

Ministers, keen to allay Tory backbench anxieties, were saying that ultimately it would be up to the Prince of Wales to decide whether the princess should be crowned queen. Their behind-the-scenes moves came

after the full cabinet was briefed on the constitutional position, and as growing numbers of Conservative MPs dismissed as ludicrous the notion that the breakdown of the marriage posed no obstacle to the Princess of Wales taking her place on the throne.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, agreed that the wording of the statement had been legally

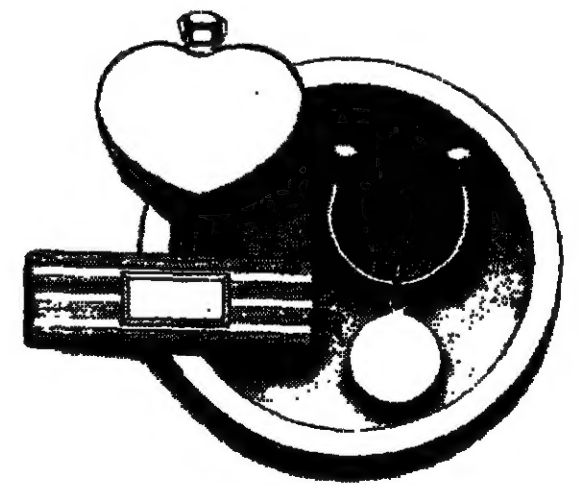


Separate life: the princess yesterday

correct. "Whether it will happen that way depends on the ongoing situation, which I cannot predict," Lord Henderson of Brompton, a former clerk of the parliaments, said he thought it impossible in practice for the princess to be crowned queen.

"The reality is that it will only cause trouble if she was made queen. It would only be appropriate if the two

Continued on page 2, col 8
Analysis, pages 2, 3
Modern Times, page 17
Diary, page 18
Letters, page 19



All That Glitters Is Not Gold

Sterling Silver Purse Mirror £40.

Sterling Silver Heart Perfume Flask £50.

Sterling Silver Screwball Keyring £25.

Sterling Silver Engine-Turned

Money Clip £50.

Exclusive to Tiffany & Co.

TIFFANY & Co.
25 OLD BOND STREET LONDON W1X 3AA
TELEPHONE 071-408 2790

Arts	35-37
Births, marriages, deaths	20-21
Business	23-30
Concise Crossword	44
Crossword	22
Info Tech	31-33
Law Report	38
Leading articles	19
Letters	39
Motoring	39
Politics	8
Sport	40-42, 44
Weather	22
TV & radio	43

BUYING THE TIMES OVERSEAS
AUSTRIA SCH 32; BELGIUM B FR 60;
CANADA C 21.75; CANARIES P 22.50;
CYPRUS G 20.00; DENMARK D 16.00;
FINLAND MK 11.00; FRANCE F 12.00;
GERMANY DM 14.00; GREECE GR 18.00;
IRELAND IR 10.00; ITALY I 12.00;
JAPAN Y 100.00; LUXEMBOURG L 12.00;
NETHERLANDS D 12.00; NORWAY N 12.00;
POLAND Z 12.00; PORTUGAL P 12.00;
SPAIN P 12.00; SWEDEN S 12.00;
SWITZERLAND S 12.00; TURKEY T 12.00;
USA \$ 12.00



9 770140 046251

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Can our bangers match the EC's sharp cruisers?

Thank heavens for Charles Hendry (C, High Peak). A cheerful Labrador pup of a new boy, Mr Hendry yesterday rescued the Commons and its audience from a dismal winter afternoon. It was not so much what Mr Hendry said — which prompted a grin but no more — as the reverie he sparked, which lit up the afternoon. But let us begin at the beginning.

We started with Treasury questions. Christmas cards on their minds, MPs found it hard to work themselves up. Labour's Gordon Brown boxed and bellowed wearily. The Tories' Norman Lamont ducked and weaved, but to what purpose? A touch of class, a whiff of hair-oil — there's a "Hey Presto" feeling about Mr Lamont.

Mrs Gorman (C) from Billerica had urged him to get taxes down. Alan Howarth (C) from Stratford-upon-Avon, had urged him to put them up and the Opposition had urged him to resign. Eyelids drooped. Then up sprang young Hendry, tall, wagging, to praise the miracles wrought by Toyota in his county — in South Derbyshire (Mrs Currie), to be precise. The wonderful new car, he said, was called the Toyota Corolla, "but..." (Mr Hendry paused proudly on the threshold of the soundbite he had polished all day) "...in view of all the help and support she has given, it should be called the Toyota Edwina."

Mrs Currie's gleaming grille, always wide, grinned wider yet as colleagues cooed appreciation of the marvel of British engineering we call the Edwina.

And the House was transformed. I spent the rest of the day seeing MPs as cars: 651 hot-rods, bangers, classics, crows and veterans. Here was a whole motor-show of them, honking, revving and phut-phutting around their gothic garage at Westminster.

For what is our Chancellor but a tarnished Lamont De Lorean: packed with gimmicky, but will it start? What was Gordon Brown but a battering bull-nosed Morris with defective silencers? And once you have seen John Smith (up the motorway in Edinburgh yesterday) as one of the fine old Rover 90s of my youth, how else can you see him? Quiet, heavy, dependable: a poor man's Rolle-Royce, but 0-60 takes an age.

John Major reminds us of

those modern family saloons launched by the British Motor Corporation in the 1960s. They were going to be reliable if unspectacular; but there were early, worrying signs of rust and strange knocking sounds from under the bonnet.

My daydream was disturbed by an angry splutter from Dennis Skinner, surely one for the stock-car races, built to crash, programmed to lurch from its lane and smash up other vehicles? Up jumped the quick-witted young chief secretary, a Lotus Porlillo of a politician, and, to a roar from the Tory crowds behind, swept round the tight bend of a difficult question. Without notes, he fired off a list of successful British businesses, at breakneck speed.

Time passed and in came the House Leader, Tony Newton, to field prime minister's questions. But who was this, brrm-brrm extravagantly and doing a wheeze along the Labour backbenches with his jest about Newton being a dud substitute?

It was Tony Banks, the Newham Capri sports, a potential performer were not the effect spoiled by the joke rubber fingers trapped in door, the furry dice, the simulated machinegun ack-ack hooter, the doll in the back window that pulls its pants down when you brake, and the bumper sticker which reads: "MPs do it standing up."

Mr Newton himself has greatly improved at the dispatch box, mostly by dint of trying hard. A slight, naturally timid figure, he has programmed himself to swagger, belt it out, and push himself to the limit.

The performance is impressive but strangely unstable. Like a Mini customised with a Sierra Cosworth engine, you feel Mr Newton may spin out of control at any moment. Matched against Labour's deputy leader, Margaret Beckett, a trim pink Fiesta to Smith's old Rover 90, he survived.

Does it matter, though? Up in Edinburgh another motor show begins. There are flashy European makes: sophisticated Citroëns, hot Italian hatchbacks, aggressive BMWs. Down in London, comfy in their green leather trim, the dear old Morrisies, Austins and Humbers chug around Westminster. But can they compete?



Difficult year: the Queen leaving an official visit yesterday to the new Charing Cross police station

MPs seek tougher sanctions against intrusion by media

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A COMMITTEE of MPs made clear yesterday that it wanted tougher sanctions against journalists who invade privacy, and that it held newspapers responsible for undermining the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

During its enquiry into media intrusion and privacy, the national heritage committee has repeatedly complained that some newspapers are breaking the Press Complaints Commission's code of conduct, and that self-regulation is not working.

James Bishop and Michael Unger from the Association of British Editors defended media coverage of the royal family, although they admitted that some journalists had breached the code of conduct on press intrusion. They pointed out that reports of the couple's relationship were ultimately true and, as they concerned the heir to the throne, were in the public interest.

A group of national newspaper editors will give evidence next week to a second Commons committee investigating the press, set up by

Clive Soley, the Labour MP for Hammersmith.

Their two reports, and the anger among some MPs at coverage of the royal family, will put pressure on Sir David Calcutt QC to recommend statutory regulation when he completes his review on the press next year. At yesterday's hearing, Mr Bishop, editor-in-chief of the *Illustrated London News*, said that the decision of the Prince and Princess of Wales not to seek injunctions or existing legal restraints had "rather encouraged excesses" by some journalists.

John Maxton, Labour MP for Cathcart, was the only MP on the Tory-dominated committee to support media coverage of the royal family. He argued that it was considerably better than the ludicrous, uncensored and reverential coverage of the past when British newspapers did not publish stories about King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson in the 1930s. The public had had to read about the relationship in the French press.

In a plea to the committee Mr Bishop urged MPs: "Leave well alone at this stage and let us get on with our job."

Mr Kautman made clear he was more anxious about intrusions into the privacy of private individuals rather than the royal family, who enjoyed some protection.

Mr Bishop said: "What's been happening in the past few months was started not by the press but by a book that could only have been published by the fact that one of the parties involved gave information to the author."

□ Giving evidence to the committee, Jill Saward, the Ealing vicarage rape victim, said she believed the press had a legitimate interest in reporting the crime. But the intrusion into her privacy was too great.

Explaining why she wrote a book, serialised in the press, she said: "I wanted to educate people on how victims suffer because nobody had that information when I was raped."

Wedding doubt, page 1
Bless this House, page 17
Matthew d'Ancona, page 18
Diary, page 18
Letters, page 19

Christmas broadcast adds to the strain

By ALAN HAMILTON

THIS year's Christmas broadcast by the Queen will be one of the most difficult she has made in her 40-year reign. Already in preparation, but as yet unrecorded, her brief message of goodwill will be scrutinised for clues to her innermost feelings on her self-confessed *annus horribilis*.

Royal messages have come a long way since King George V interrupted his Christmas day lunch at Sandringham in 1932 and, with a degree of self-confessed trepidation, addressed briefly to his study where the deferential engineers of the BBC had concealed two microphones in mahogany cases. He barked a brief and gruff message of good cheer to the empire, and returned to his pudding.

These days, the Christmas broadcast, delivered with equal trepidation by the Queen to a camera loaded with videotape, is scammed for meaning. The monarch does not grant interviews, but can take her occasional opportunity when staring into the camera lens to send coded signals.

The Queen, in a review of world events during her reign, remarked last year: "I feel the same obligation to you that I felt in 1952. With your prayers, and your help, and with the love and support of my

family, I shall try to serve you in the years to come." The message was clear: speculation that she might abdicate in favour of her son was wrong.

She faces the enormous problem this year of acknowledging a catalogue of family disasters, from the divorce of her daughter, the separation of her first and second sons from their wives, and the conflagration at her favourite official residence, while at the same time delivering the message that the royal train, having lost a wheel or two, is still on the rails.

Viewers around the world will be looking for a barely-concealed message that, for all the ill winds that have blown its way in the past 12 months, the crown is not yet ready to be plucked down.

Christmas broadcasts have become a combination of a review of the passing year and a brief family introspection. Her Majesty's script this year, as always, will be largely her own work, with the help of Sir Robert Fellowes, her private secretary, and Sir David Attenborough, the broadcaster charged with producing the brief programme shown around the Commonwealth. Her remarks will be analysed in the greatest depth for any hint of meaning.

Princess may not attend wedding

Continued from page 1
had come together again and were no longer separated. It is technically possible, but whether practical or acceptable to the nation is another question. I thought they made a great mistake mentioning it at all," Lord Henderson said.

Tory MPs were also further irritated to learn of Downing Street's disclosure that the timing of the announcement, which forced Mr Major to interrupt critical last-minute preparations for the Edinburgh summit, was dictated by Buckingham Palace. Some Tories said they believed that the princess had forced the issue, and one well-connected former cabinet minister said that he suspected that she had insisted on the prime minister telling MPs there was no reason why she should not be crowned queen.

However, others said it was the fear of a leak to the press that had caused the announcement to be made so swiftly after the decision to separate. The palace stuck its guns, dismissing as "complete nonsense" reports of the announcement, originally planned for January, but which had been brought forward because the *Sunday Mirror* was about to break the story.

Some Conservative MPs took a more relaxed view of ministers about access to the palace. They were largely academic as the princess would certainly divorce before a question arose. Downing Street officials also sought to draw a distinction between the prime minister's statement, which he had set out the constitutional position, and what might happen in the future.

As ministers began discussing the possibility of the princess putting up with the Westminister, it was said as long as the royal couple remained man and wife, the princess would become queen when the prince succeeded his mother. She would be entitled to be addressed as queen, but it would be up to the new king to decide whether she should be crowned with pomp.

Some Tories said that such a scenario would be a travesty and a national embarrassment which would not be tolerated by the people. Others said it would be impossible for the princess to become queen unless there was a reconciliation between the two.

While the political controversy took wing, the princess and prince went about their separate businesses yesterday. She made a speech at lunch given by the Head of National Head Injuries Association, and he delving down sewer in east London visiting Thames Water. The couple came together yesterday evening as joint hosts of a Christmas party for workers at their various charities.

'As Kylie left Neighbours, so Di has quit the royals'

By MICHAEL BENVENISTE, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AS OTHERS SEE US
A weekly look at how the world views Britain

THE world responded with a mixture of sadness and fascination to news of the separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The story made headlines everywhere, even in Africa, but many newspaper and television commentaries regarded the announcement as simply another episode in a television melodrama.

"Look, it's a soap opera for us," the Sydney writer Jenny Ezz said. "As Kylie left *Neighbours*, so Di has finally quit the royal family."

In Australia, the royal family enjoys a cult following that transcends both anti-British and republican sentiments. Republicans including David Williamson, the country's leading playwright, joined

their monarchist rivals in expressing sadness for the separated couple. But constitutional experts said that the prince and princess would still become King and Queen of Australia.

The American tabloids, no less than their British cousins, took the opportunity for some inventive front-page headlines. "Royal Flush" announced the *New York Daily News*. "Splitting Heirs" said *The Post*. "11 years, 4 months, 1 week, 4 days" the *New York Newsday* dourly reported. The *Wall Street Journal*, however, devoted exactly 50 words to the "widely expected" news in

a single paragraph at the bottom of page one.

The usually staid *New York Times* ran excitable news of the royal separation across its front page, and doubted whether the "ancient protocols and traditions of the monarchy can accommodate the tricky conventions of marriage and family in the 1990s". The paper also asked what is, for many Americans, a more interesting question: "Will the Prince and Princess be able to date other people?"

An editorial inside reminisced about the royal wedding. "The music was swell, St Paul's Cathedral never looked

better and, all in all, it was the kind of wedding that even money can't buy," the editorial said. In a country where money can buy everything, that means a great deal.

As ever America's sympathies are firmly with the princess, who is consistently portrayed, to quote one of yesterday's radio reports, as "the public's darling who matured into a confident woman". One television announcer, grinning broadly, declared: "The fairy tale romance is over, without a happy ending."

In Europe, where the tempestuous details of the recent royal entanglements have been followed with equal fascination, the reaction was one of shock but not surprise. "Charles and Di — What a cold end. How could it come to

this?" asked *Bild*, Germany's mass-circulation tabloid. Italian newspapers speculated that the separation heralded the end of the monarchy. "The Crown trembles," said *Il Messaggero* of Rome's frontpage headline.

In France, after a broadcast word of Mr Major's imminent statement, workers gathered at radio sets. On Wednesday evening, French commentators in London were talking the "surprise", "sadness" and "sadness" in British and in the Commonwealth countries, whose leaders informed before the announcement, the reaction more sombre. Muhammad Abubakar, acting high commissioner for Nigeria, said: "Charles and Di — What a very sad end."



Double take: how *Le Parisien* squeezed a joke out of yesterday's two big stories

OH YULETIDE JOY!

A STICK WITH A FISH
ON THE END OF IT.

Plainly cups will be overflowing this Christmas. Ornamental canes, collapsible shaving mirrors, festive nightshirts and 'St George' nickel plated armbands. All from Simpson Piccadilly. Where else? Simpson Piccadilly is just two shakes from **DAKS Simpson** Piccadilly Circus. 071-754 2002

'The same issues will have to be settled as in any other separation but confidentiality is paramount'

Little-known divorce lawyer guides the princess

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales will see London's most eminent matrimonial lawyers lock horns with a solicitor who is almost unknown outside the London divorce lawyers' circuit.

Paul Butner, divorce partner at the small eight-partner Grays Inn firm Wright Son & Pepper, has landed the most high-profile job of any matrimonial lawyer's career in negotiating the Princess of Wales's life apart from the heir to the throne.

He finds himself facing Sir Matthew Farrer, the Queen's solicitor, and assistants from the top-draw matrimonial firm Farrer & Co, who acted in the separations and divorces of the Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips and between Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon. Lord Goodman, another legal establishment figure, is also thought to have been involved in advising the prince in recent weeks.

Yesterday, Wright Son & Pepper confirmed that Mr Butner, 55, was acting for the princess but would make no further comment. It is believed that a friend recommended the firm to the princess, who reportedly made her contacts with the firm under the alias of Mrs Walsh. Another divorce lawyer said: "The firm is not known as a premier-league matrimonial firm but he personally is an excellent, experienced lawyer who has built up a very good reputation in this field."

Mr Butner is thought to have had several meetings over the past few weeks with the princess, at various venues including Kensington Palace. Recently remarried himself and a father of two, Mr Butner is known as a tough and skilful operator with wide experience in litigation and divorce.

The negotiations, which are underway, could be settled within weeks if there is no disagreement, or run into many months. Divorce lawyers said that the same issues would have to be settled as with any other couple, but because of the public spotlight, the need for confidentiality and discretion was "a thousand times greater".

Douglas Alexander, of the well-known matrimonial firm Mori Dadds, said: "In the case of separation, couples usually like to have a written document, but it is not neces-

sary. I would not expect a formal document in this case, although probably what has been agreed will be written down, perhaps in correspondence."

The issues would embrace the financial arrangements, including the outgoings on Kensington Palace, an allowance for the princess and children, the payment of school fees and possibly whether a trust would be set up for the children, he said.

There would also be the question of where the children would live and contact with the children by their father, which in this case would be unlimited. "Arrangements will be made to enable the princess to live with the dignity that befits her station in life," he said.

The main difference between the separation of the royal couple and that for most other people is that there is no need to sell the family home to provide for a second house. To a large extent, the financial arrangements are already in place, such as the running of Kensington Palace, the allowance enjoyed by the princess, and the payment of the children's schooling.

Last year, the prince took £2.5 million from the Duchy of Cornwall and gave 25 per cent of it in lieu of tax to the Exchequer. This covered the running costs of the couple's homes and their living expenses. With profits from the Duchy rising, this looks likely to continue to provide amply for their financial needs, whether together or not. Neither has any income from the Civil List.

The only change to the present arrangements would come if they were to divorce and either party remarried. If the prince remarried, he would still have to provide for his former wife. If she remarried, he would continue to provide for the children but, depending on the wealth of the man she chose to marry, his contribution would be reassessed. It is likely that a divorce settlement would include a large lump sum payment adequate to provide the princess with an income for life.

Wedding doubt, page 1
Bless this house, page 17
Matthew d'Ancona, page 18
Diary, page 18
Letters, page 19



Goodman: thought to advise the prince



Alexander: document is not necessary

Royal patrons will not lessen their charity commitments

By IAN MURRAY

THE Prince and Princess of Wales are expected to throw themselves more wholeheartedly than ever into their charity and other work in the wake of their formal separation.

As proof of their commitment to ensuring that royal business continues as usual, both fulfilled long-standing engagements yesterday. On Wednesday, even as the House of Commons was listening to Buckingham Palace's statement about the separation, the princess's private office was faxing a letter to most of the 115 organisations with which she is associated, promising her continued interest and support.

The prince, who is linked to 431 different organisations, did not send a similar letter, but his staff spent yesterday reassuring everyone who called that he would honour all engagements. "There was never any question of him cutting anything out so there was no need to send a letter," a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said.

Age Resource, which the prince joined as president 18

■ The separation will not lessen the dedication of the Prince and Princess of Wales to their chosen causes

months ago, was first on the telephone to his office yesterday morning to confirm that he would be handing out prizes to resourceful pensioners from all over the country who had been proving that senior citizens can contribute to the community. "It is very good for our profile to have him associated with what we are doing," said a spokeswoman.

Jonathan Porritt, the environmental campaigner who advises the prince, predicted on Radio 4's *The World at One* yesterday that the separation would give the prince a new sense of confidence and optimism. "I think inevitably that there will be, on top of the sadness, a sense of relief that he can concentrate on the causes that he cares so passionately about, whether it is to do



Seasonal cheer: the Princess of Wales was greeted yesterday by Lord Healey, right, and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who were dressed as Santa Claus, at her first official engagement since the announcement of her separation from her husband (Julia Llewellyn Smith writes). Pleas for press restraint were ignored when

more than 100 photographers from around the world perched on ladders and jostled for her attention as she arrived at the London Hilton hotel for the Christmas lunch of Headway, the National Head Injuries Association, of which she is patron. Usually, only a dozen photographers would have been at such an engagement. Dressed in a

bright pink suit, the princess look slightly tense but composed, and refused to look at the cameras as she entered the hotel. She laughed as she met Lord Healey and Lord Archer. The princess made a speech, in which she did not refer to her separation, presented prizes to two children and received a standing ovation.

Britons lose faith in future of monarchy

By ALAN HAMILTON

OPINION polls have tended to show a declining support for the monarchy in recent years, and a diminishing belief that the institution will last for ever.

Mori, which conducts polls for *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, has been asking the public at regular intervals whether it thought Britain would be worse off without a monarchy. When the question was asked in 1984, 77 per cent thought the country would be worse off; by 1987 the figure had declined to 73 per cent, by 1989 to 58 per cent, and by May of this year to a mere 50 per cent.

Asked whether they thought Britain would still have a monarchy in ten years, 95 per cent of respondents in 1990 thought we would, but by this year that proportion of believers had fallen to 85 per cent.

As for those who thought we would still retain a monarchy a century from now, the figure of 49 per cent in 1990 had fallen to 29 per cent by this

year. Robert Worcester of Mori said yesterday that opinion poll data tended to contradict the stereotype of the ardent royalist as a middle-aged working-class woman.

More men than women thought the monarchy would survive for at least 50 years, as did more young people than pensioners. Middle-class respondents believed more firmly in the institution's survival than did working-class respondents.

In the most recent survey, 57 per cent of the middle-class respondents thought that the country would be worse off without a monarchy, compared with 45 per cent of working-class respondents. But 38 per cent of young people thought the country would be worse off without a monarchy, compared with 62 per cent of older respondents.

"The data tend to suggest that the traditional supporter of monarchy is younger and more affluent than is generally believed," Mr Worcester said.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES SEND THEIR MESSAGE OF GREEK MACEDONIA

It is true that when ordinary people refer to Greek antiquity, they usually have in mind ancient cities that had played an important role in the growth of civilisation from prehistoric up to the classical period. Among them, Athens, Thebes, Corinth, Sparta, Olympia and other city-states of the southern part of Greece, the Aegean islands, Crete, Cyprus, west Asia Minor and even south of Italy, the very well known "Magna Graecia" are among the prevailing ones. On the contrary Macedonia's history comes into existence since the glorious reign of King Philip, his son Alexander the Great, and his generals who ruled over the remains of the late Persian empire, creating the very well known and so important Greek centers of civilization of Alexandria, Pergamos, Antioch of Mesopotamia. Nevertheless, Macedonia's previous history remains quite obscure to common people.

However, archaeological excavations during the last twenty years brought to light hundreds of ancient Greek cities, temples, palaces, theaters and tombs, one of which is the famous tomb of King Philip, and treasures of an exquisite workmanship and design. Chronologically, they cover the most important periods of the Greek history from the Mycenaean up to the classical times. Their number increases in such a manner, that in the years to come, they will very probably exceed those of the southern part of the country, which was wrongly considered to constitute the main body of Greek antiquity. Therefore, when talking of ancient Greece, one must have in mind its northern part as well, i.e. Macedonia.

The bronze crater of Derveni

Amongst the most important finds are the bronze crater and several other bronze vases with an attractive golden appearance. They were discovered near Thessaloniki, capital of Macedonia in 1969. They are ascribed to the 4th century B.C., a period during which metal working technique in Greece had reached an amazingly high standard of perfection.

The large crater, a unique masterpiece of ancient Greek art and technology, has a 90 cm height, and an approximate mass of 40 kg. The base, the four statuettes, which lie on the crater's shoulder, and the two heavy handles are cast, while the whole main body with the fine relief decorations is forged.

Its golden colour, which led archaeologists to believe that it was gold plated, is due to an unusual high tin content (15%). It is surprising how ancient Greeks had shaped the hard copper-tin alloy into such a large vase and, what is more, they had decorated its main body with high relief decorations.

On the other hand, X-ray investigation led to the unexpected conclusion that this huge crater was from bottom to the middle of its neck a one piece vase. At this point exists the sole welding zone between the main body and the upper part of the crater. Just above the welding point some small size wild animals seem to walk on an irregular ground. In this way, the artist has actually succeeded in hiding the rather rough welding.

Macro and micro examination and experimental work showed that the crater would have been produced by forging, while the smaller bronze vases either by forging, or on the lathe, or, finally by a

combination of both. In fact, some of the small vases show signs of spinning on the lathe.

The above study has largely contributed in assessing the achievements realized by ancient Greeks in Macedonia during the 4th century B.C., and has led to the conclusion that throughout this period Greek art and technology had actually reached a climax of perfection and, what is more, Macedonia the new Greek super power that had succeeded Athens after its decline constituted part of the ancient Greek world and a continuation of its civilization.

Prof. Dr. George J. Varoufakis
Head of the Research and Quality Control Department
of HALYVOURGKI INC.

HALYVOURGKI INC.
GREAT BRITAIN - GREECE - WEST GERMANY - USA & NEW ZEALAND





• LIMITED OFFER •

FIXED RATE MORTGAGE

7.79% 8.8% APR

UNTIL 31ST JANUARY 1995.

Visit your local branch or phone 0800 555 100, Monday
to Friday 9.00 am – 9.00 pm, quoting S140.



The habit of a lifetime

This offer may be withdrawn at any time. Completion must be before 12.03.93 for new applicants and before 29.01.93 for existing customers. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on your property and in the case of an endowment mortgage an endowment/ life policy for the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy. All loans subject to status and valuation and are not available to persons under 18. Written quotations are available on request. APR is typical and variable. Rates correct at time of going to press. Conditions of offer available on request. Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS
ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

Duke's blo
Russian

Law lo
the warn
about the
the eff

...reading
...£11.800



...the eff

...the eff

Duke's blood helps prove Russian bones are tsar

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A BLOOD sample from the Duke of Edinburgh has provided evidence that five skeletons dug up from a pit in eastern Russia last year are almost certainly those of the Russian imperial family, murdered by Bolsheviks in 1918.

Tests at the Home Office forensic science laboratory at Aldermaston have found that DNA from Prince Philip matches that from a skeleton believed to be Tsarina Alexandra, whose sister Princess Victoria of Hesse was his maternal grandmother.

Prince Philip was the first living relative of the Romanovs to provide a sample for DNA analysis.

The results of the tests on samples of DNA extracted from the bones go a long way towards confirming that these are the last mortal remains of Russia's imperial house, as earlier circumstantial evidence had suggested. Certainty will depend on further tests being made on living relatives.

The results are a triumph for the latest methods of DNA analysis. Dr Janet Thompson, director-general of the Home

Office Forensic Science Service, said yesterday: "It is a great compliment to the work of our forensic scientists that we are Russia's preferred choice."

The family was shot by Bolsheviks at a house in Ekaterinburg on July 17, 1918, with their doctor and three servants. Their bodies were taken away with the intention of burning them and destroying the evidence. In the event, only two bodies were burnt, according to historical accounts, those of the tsar's heir, Alexei, and his youngest daughter, Anastasia. The rest were buried in a pit.

Bones from the skeletons were brought to Britain three months ago by Dr Pavel Ivanov, a Russian forensic scientist. At Aldermaston, a team led by Dr Peter Gill began the task of extracting tiny fragments of DNA from the bones, not certain that this would be possible or that it would prove anything.

The kind of DNA they were looking for is mitochondrial DNA, far more plentiful in the cells than the chromosomal

DNA that determines inherited characteristics. This form of DNA passes down virtually unchanged through the maternal line. The scientists were able to extract minute quantities of the material and multiply it up using a technique called PCR.

The DNA was then sequenced, to discover the exact order of the four bases which make it up. No two unrelated individuals would be expected to share exactly the same sequence. The sequences from the bodies was compared, and the number of matches coincided with what was expected. The skeletons appear to be those of a family group and four unrelated individuals. In all, the group was consistent with accounts of the murders.

The next step was to compare the sequence believed to be from the tsarina with that of the Duke of Edinburgh. His grandmother would have shared the same mitochondrial DNA as the tsarina, which would then have passed down the maternal line through his mother, Princess Alice.

The samples matched. No

calculation can yet be made of the chances of this match happening by chance, as too few mitochondrial DNA samples have ever been sequenced to know the degree of variation. But it is likely that the odds against a chance match are of the order of hundreds, perhaps thousands, to one.

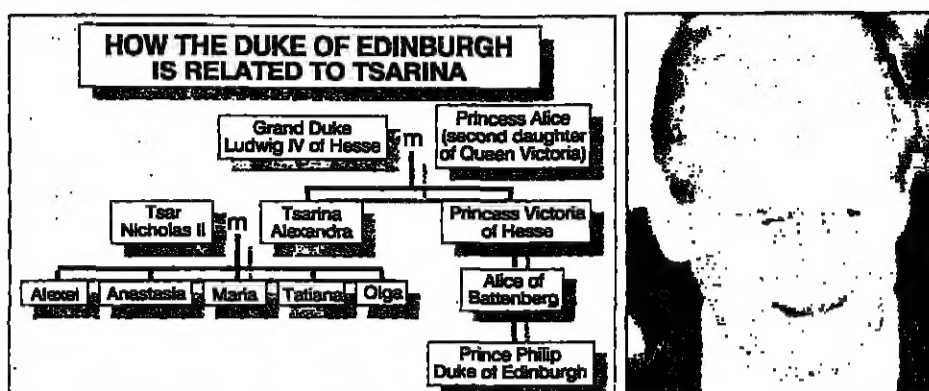
The only setback so far has been the failure to match the DNA of the tsar with that of a sample given by a descendant on his mother's side. The two should match, but do not. One possible reason for this is that a natural mutation of the DNA over four generations, which is known to happen, may have upset the match. Alternatively, the unnamed woman who gave the sample may not be related to the tsar.

Further tests will be needed to make certain of the relationships, and the team has more descendants willing to provide samples.

They also have a hair sample of hair believed to be from the head of Anna Andersen, the woman who claimed to be Anastasia, which the team has not yet tested.



Royal link: Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra, great aunt of Prince Philip



Rebel MPs threaten lottery bill

By Alison Roberts, Arts Reporter

THE revolt against the national lottery bill, led by the football pools companies who fear revenue and job losses, is growing.

Nearly 100 MPs have signed an early day motion demanding concessions for the pools companies, and will vote against the bill, published early next week, if these are not included.

Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, met representatives from the pools companies earlier this week, but provided little comfort for the industry, which expects to lose up to 6,500 jobs unless it is allowed the same marketing opportunities granted to the lottery. David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Mossley Hill, one of the six cross-party sponsors of the early day motion, said that those MPs prepared to vote against the bill included normally stalwart government supporters.

The lottery could raise £5.5 billion a year for arts, sport, the millennium fund, heritage and charities.

Leading article, page 19

Doctors ignored dying patient

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

A WOMAN lay dying from lung cancer in a hospital ward for six days without being visited by a doctor able to discuss her condition or tell her what was wrong, an investigation by the health service ombudsman has disclosed.

Despite repeated requests from her husband, who was constantly at her bedside, the couple were ignored by medical staff from the night of the woman's admission until a few hours before she died almost a week later.

The case, one of 16 published yesterday, "illustrates in worrying detail how important it is for staff to take effective action when a patient or next of kin asks to see a doctor about the diagnosis or treatment", William Reid, the ombudsman, says.

Nurses had contacted the junior doctor several times but he had found the persistent requests annoying and had tended to "blank them out". The couple were fobbed off with excuses such as that the doctor was too busy or was admitting new patients or that the consultant visited the ward only twice a week.

On the sixth day, when the consultant visited the woman on his ward round, he told her husband not to look so worried and that he hoped she would be able to go home in a few days, but said nothing about the diagnosis or treatment. She died that night.

The ombudsman concluded that the junior doctor's attitude and behaviour were wholly unacceptable and the consultant's supervision of him ineffectual. Consultants should be reminded of their responsibilities for training and directing the work of their junior staff, he says.

Law lords are warned about libel gag effect

By Richard Ford

LOCAL newspapers would be hit much harder than the national media if councils were allowed to sue for libel, the law lords were told yesterday. The threat of a writ before an article was published would have a "chilling effect" on freedom of expression, particularly in small newspapers reporting council affairs.

Desmond Browne QC is representing Times Newspapers, which is contesting an appeal by Derbyshire County Council against an appeal court judgment that local authorities and government departments do not have the right to sue for libel. The case arises from two reports in *The Sunday Times* criticising the council's pension fund dealings.

Mr Browne told the appellate committee of the House of Lords that unlike Times Newspapers, which was a large profitable national newspaper group, many local newspapers lacked the resources to fund lengthy and expensive libel actions. He said that the issuing of a writ would have a gagging effect and was seen as a deterrent by even large media organisations. "The law which you will have to write applies not just to the barons of Wapping but also to the village barons."

Charles Gray QC, for Derbyshire County Council, said that if the Court of Appeal judgment was upheld, newspapers would have a field day at the expense of those administering local affairs.

He told the final day of the hearing that upholding the ban would stop a local authority from protecting its reputation, however serious the libel or damaging the attack. A judgment in the case, which has legal and constitutional implications, is expected in the new year.

Anglo-Saxon reading aid fetches £41,800

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

A TINY Anglo-Saxon jewel discovered by a beachcomber in Dorset sold for £41,800 at Sotheby's yesterday.

It was discovered by Bernard Yarosz, a former American air force man, who was using a metal detector on Bowleaze beach, Dorset. He and his wife deduced it was a pointer used to guide readers of medieval manuscripts along the lines without smudging the copy. The couple concluded that their gadget had belonged to King Alfred.

The local coroner's court decided the jewel was not treasure trove and was therefore Mr Yarosz's to sell; the receiver of wrecks concluded that it could not have come from a shipwreck, and he therefore had no claim; but Weymouth and Portland council did stake a claim, because it was found on its land. One councillor even pronounced that the community charge bill would be reduced as a result of the expected windfall. As the dis-



Pointer to the past: the manuscript marker

pute dragged on for more than two years, Mr Yarosz said he wished that he had thrown the jewel back into the sea on finding it.

Two months ago, the local council reluctantly dropped its claim to ownership. According to Laurence Keen, Dorset county archaeologist, the jewel had nothing to do with King Alfred although it is of the correct period.

□ A 1931 Rolls-Royce built for Charlie Chaplin sold for £82,000 at Coys of Kensington on Wednesday night.

PRINCIPLES

Rejoice!

PRINCIPLES
quality clothes
now dramatically
cut

20% OFF

Marked Price

womenswear

All Eveningwear
Coats
Knitwear
Dresses
Accessories

menswear

All Jackets
Knitwear
Shirts
Ties
Eveningwear

All womenswear offers include our Petite range.

Last Two Days!

Our weekend of rejoicing continues
today and finishes on Saturday.
Also in selected stores on Sunday.

THIS OFFER IS ALSO FEATURED IN PRINCIPLES AT DEBENHAMS.
Phone 071-927 1519/1499 for details. This line is open 9a.m. - 6p.m., Wednesday to Friday.

Ten injured by IRA bombs at London shopping centre

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Correspondent

SUBURBAN Christmas shoppers yesterday became the latest target for the IRA's intensified mainland campaign as two hidden bombs exploded outside one of London's largest centres while police were trying to clear the public.

Ten people, including four police officers, were treated in hospital when the small devices exploded after being hidden in rubbish bins on the main street outside Wood Green Shopping City near Tottenham, north London. None of the injured, who included a 19-year-old constable who had started on the streets on Monday, were said to be badly hurt.

Another six officers were treated for shock at a police station. They included WPC Helen Barnett and WPC Jenny Lawson who were seriously injured a year ago with other officers tackling a violent man armed with a knife close to the scene of yesterday's blast.

Scotland Yard said three warning calls with a recognised code word were received by police at 9.15am, 9.16am

and 9.18am. The first claimed that bombs would explode in 20 minutes. The other two calls claimed the bombs would go off in 25 minutes. The police said locations given for the bombs were vague.

Police began clearing the area but there was no time to move people who live above the complex. As police were searching, the first bomb exploded in a litter bin at 9.30am outside a branch of W.H. Smith. Five minutes later, a second bomb exploded near a branch of Argos. Electrical equipment from the store was scattered among shards of glass. The metal

door frames of W.H. Smith were blown on to the shopping centre's walkway.

Lorraine Taylor, a shop assistant aged 27, was injured slightly in the blast and later described how little time people had to escape. "We all started to leave the building when we heard the warning over the Tannoy. But seconds later, as I rushed down the stairs, the first bomb went off. "I froze when I heard the blast. People were screaming and outside I could see a police officer lying on the floor. My first thoughts were just to get out. Then suddenly the second bomb went off. People were rushing everywhere. "Staff at

other shops also complained about how little time they had to get clear, but last night a police spokesman pointed out the warnings were not detailed, there was little time and police had already cleared some areas when the bombs exploded.

The bombings follow another small bomb discovered on Wednesday night in a van outside Woodside Park Underground station in north London, suggesting that one IRA active service unit may now be intent on launching small but effective attacks in the run-up to Christmas.

The IRA has threatened to step up its mainland efforts as Christmas approaches. The devices this week may be the work of a group working separately from the team involved in the three recent attempts to ignite one-tonne van bombs in central London. The outwaded Ulster Freedom Fighters yesterday admitted it planted a series of fire bombs in the Irish Republic on Wednesday, some of which exploded, causing minor damage.



Shopping chaos: shards of glass from a store front litter the street after bombs exploded in Wood Green

"Due to a clerical error, I lost the company £37,000,000."

The atmosphere at work is still, how shall I put it, rather frosty.

I suspect this incident may also hamper my promotion prospects.

I still can't believe it happened.

About four months into the field trials on project "Omega", Phil [redacted] apparently sent me a memo asking me to consider looking into the patent situation on the new [redacted] we were developing and get back to him with some thoughts.

Unfortunately the note somehow got filed under "Carbon [redacted]" without my ever seeing it. Or at least I can't remember seeing it.

(Anyway, I probably had more important things to do at the time.)

Obviously, as project leader, I must technically accept responsibility for the unfortunate fiscal loss that resulted but as I explained at

the enquiry, why didn't [redacted] chase it up himself?

Also, why wasn't the importance of patents made generally known throughout [redacted] industries? I'll tell you

why, because nobody else had a clue either.

Not even old [redacted]

He's the one who rushed out the press release about the new device giving full technical details and a helpful diagram.

The idea was to get the forthcoming stockholders meeting off on a high note, which it did.

They were shrieking for his resignation.

He'd made the invention public before filing

for a patent, a move which resulted in the application being rejected.

In fact, one of our rivals, [redacted] Ltd, is already testing prototypes of a device almost identical to the one we spent [redacted] years and [redacted] million developing, and there's nothing we

can do about it. It seems I - or rather we've thrown away a 20 year monopoly on a product worth an estimated £37 million, excluding licensing agreements.

Oh, we've discovered lots of fascinating information since becoming "Patent aware".

For instance, before starting any new project it's a good idea to find out what has already been achieved in that area through the Patent Office Search and Advisory Service.

Apparently an estimated 30% of all the money spent on R&D is wasted on trying to re-invent the wheel.

(One Japanese company, [redacted] even employs 150 people, full time, just to examine other people's patents.)

On a brighter note, it transpires that losing £37 million isn't unusual. In recent years other British companies have thrown away discoveries worth literally billions of pounds.

The Patent Office

Over £500 million in the case of [redacted] whose [redacted] invention should have made them a household name.

Now, like us they shall remain anonymous.

To: Ted Blake, I don't want to find out about patents the hard way, please send me your free information pack. The Patent Office, Room 1L02, Concept House, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NP9 1RH Tel 0633 814412.

Name _____ Title _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ Telephone _____

THE INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERS AND COMPANIES PORTRAYED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT ARE FICTITIOUS. THE COLLECTIVE POLY IT ILLUSTRATES IS ALL TOO REAL.

Bottomley to speed hospital closures

Health ministers are determined to press ahead quickly with proposals to close many of London's top hospitals next year despite growing opposition from the medical profession (Jill Sherman writes).

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, is expected next month to back a programme of closures similar to those recommended in the Tomlinson report. She has secured enough money to implement some of the plans next year and is adamant that the closures go ahead before the idea loses momentum.

Mrs Bottomley is unmoved by the vociferous opposition to the closure of St Bartholomew's Hospital, which was marked by a lobby at Downing Street yesterday. But one ministerial source ventured yesterday that she might have to save Bart's as the price to pay for implementing the rest of the plans, which comprise closures or mergers of up to 15 hospitals. Mrs Bottomley believes that they could be phased over five years.

Drug gang jailed

The gang behind Britain's biggest amphetamine sulphate racket were jailed yesterday. Frankie Sims, 54, of Basildon Essex, the gang leader, was jailed for 11 years. Daniel Howard, 42, of Sandy, Bedfordshire, and Michael Butler, 28, of Wood Green, north London, were sentenced to ten years each. Eleven other men were also sentenced to between two years and eight years by Wood Green Crown Court. The gang set up two factories capable of manufacturing amphetamines worth £4.8 million a week.

Football chief freed

A 12-month jail sentence on the former chairman of Swindon Town Football Club was halved yesterday, allowing him to be freed. The Court of Appeal rejected a challenge by Brian Hillier, right, to his conviction for his part in a tax fiddle involving under-the-counter payments to players - alleged to be around £40,000 - but ruled that the sentence was unnecessarily severe.



Journalist fights for job

A television journalist was fired after wild outbursts at colleagues, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday. Audrey Purdie, 39, news editor at Worldwide Television News in Camden, north London, the employers of John McCarthy, even dampened celebrations when the former hostage was freed with her aggressive attitude, it was said. She quit when given the choice to accept demotion or leave. Mrs Purdie, of Dulwich Village, claims unfair dismissal. The hearing continues.

Alcoholic abused priest

An Irish woman has been sentenced to two months in prison in co. Galway under an English act of parliament introduced during British rule, for shouting abuse at a priest. The defendant, 40, and single, was charged under the 1860 Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act with disquieting a preacher and violent behaviour at Kilconly church during Sunday mass. She faces prison as soon as she leaves hospital where she is being treated for alcohol abuse. Her solicitor intends to appeal.

Teacher loses case

A teacher sacked for slapping a pupil and leaving a laboratory unsupervised after burning his hand on a pair of forceps lost his case for unfair dismissal yesterday. Robert Harrison, 59, hit the boy of 14 who had heated the implement at Beaumont School in St Albans, Hertfordshire. Bedford Industrial Tribunal endorsed his dismissal.

Homes racket enquiry

Charges that "insider rings" of solicitors and estate agents are manipulating the market in repossessed houses are being investigated, the government said yesterday. Sir Bryan Carlsberg, director-general of fair trading, has begun enquiries that could result in people being banned from engaging in estate agency work.

Supermarkets accused

Several big supermarkets in Yorkshire and Humberside face prosecution after allegedly selling pieces of fat at the same price as the joints of meat with which they were packed. In one case the added fat made up more than a quarter of the total weight. Trading standards officers condemned the practice as grossly misleading.

Copyright © 1992

Appeal judges free Cardiff Three over police conduct

By LIN JENKINS

THREE men jailed for life for the murder of a prostitute were freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday to cheers from their supporters.

The ruling followed a concession by the prosecution that the convictions of Stephen Miller, Tony Paris and Yusuf Abdullahi, known as the Cardiff Three, were "unsafe and unsatisfactory" because of the appeal judges' opinion that recorded police interviews of Mr Miller should not have been put before the jury. Lord Taylor of Goshforth, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Popplewell and Mr Justice Laws, said the judges were horrified by the tape recordings of the police conduct during the interviews.

The case, the latest in a series of miscarriages of justice, will fuel criticism of police behaviour and the criminal justice system. Since the freeing of the Guildford Four just over three years ago, more than 40 people have had their convictions quashed.

Michael Mansfield QC, for Mr Miller, had argued that the trial judge had been wrong to admit the evidence of the police interviews since it was tainted by the oppressive conduct of the police officers, which amounted to "beating him over the head verbally". Mr Mansfield also argued that the main evidence against Mr Miller from two prostitutes was so shot through with lies and inconsistencies that it amounted to "almost no evidence at all".

The three men were convicted at Swansea Crown Court in November 1990 of the murder of Lynette White after Britain's longest murder trial, lasting 197 days. Supporters mounted a campaign immediately after their conviction and won the backing of Liberty, the pressure group for criminal justice reform.

Miss White was hacked to

death on St Valentine's day, 1988, in a seedy flat without running water or electricity in James Street, Cardiff, where she charged clients £10 a time. She had been stabbed more than 50 times. Her throat was cut through to the spine. She had been due to give evidence at the trial of a woman accused of trying to kill a prostitute.

Witnesses saw a dark-haired white man with cut hands and wearing blood-stained clothes outside the flat, and police issued a photograph. Ten months later, although the white man had not been eliminated from the enquiry, five black men were charged, among them the three cleared yesterday.

Mr Miller, Miss White's former boy friend, had an IQ of 75. During legal argument David Elfer QC, for the crown, agreed with Lord Taylor that Mr Miller denied the offence more than 300 times. Lord Taylor said: "If you go on asking somebody questions, and tell him he is going to sit there until he says what you want, there will come a time when most people will crack. Oppression may be of the obvious, crude variety or it may be just by relentlessness."

The judge said that Mr Miller was reduced to tears, yet there was no suggestion of the police asking: "Would you like a break?"

Mr Elfer defended the police line of questioning but said that, if the court's view was that the Miller tapes should not have been admitted in evidence, he would not press the matter.

Lord Taylor said it followed that, if the Miller tapes should not have been admitted at the trial in which all three men were accused, none of the convictions could be upheld.

Mr Miller said as he left the court: "Justice has been done. But many more innocent people are inside."

Only 6% of UK box office takings are for home-grown films



Former glory: *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, starring Sir Alec Guinness, centre, was produced in 1949, halcyon days for British cinema

British film industry 'starved of funds and near collapse'

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

BRITAIN'S once great film industry, revolving around Ealing, Elstree and Pinewood studios, is near collapse, the British Film Institute says.

City of Joy was the only big-budget, big-screen film to be financed last year from wholly British sources. *The Commitments*, directed by Alan Parker and based on Roddy Doyle's book, was the biggest British box-office hit in 1991, but was financed by the American companies 20th Century Fox and Sovereign Pictures.

Although the number of feature-length films made in the UK has not dropped — there were 59 made in 1991 — there has been a dramatic decline in investment in film-making, according to a report by the institute this week. The average budget for films made in Britain, including those with international money, was £4.12 million in 1991, just over half the budget for films in 1984, in the midst of a British film revival.

Most of the films last year were made for television.

The British film industry enjoyed halcyon years during the forties and fifties when the studios at Ealing produced classics such as *Whisky Galore* in 1949, *Kind Hearts and Coronets* in 1949, and *The Ladykillers* in 1955. In the mid-eighties, big-budget cinema films such as *Gandhi*, *The Killing Fields*, *Return of the Jedi* and *Superman III* were produced.

Last year, British films captured just 6 per cent of the UK box office while American films accounted for 84 per cent. The top 20 films at the UK box office were headed by *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves* and *Terminator 2*.

The director Michael Winner said that British producers and directors were to blame for the state of the industry. "There is no question. It has been the worst year I have ever seen and I have been in active film production for 37 years. Out

of every 100 people who come to movies only one and a half choose to see a British film. British producers have let people down so that it is very difficult to get people to put money into the industry."

The institute says that British films lack the ingredients needed for big returns, including money for top stars and special effects, a strong narrative drive, quickly identifiable villains and heroes and "moral ambiguity". The report says the industry is at a crossroads. It must choose either to accept a smaller role, producing specialist or television films or compete with the Americans by spending far more.

Colin McCabe, head of the institute's research department, said: "The relationship between television and cinema needs to be sorted out. There are actually a lot of good British films made for TV that never make it on to cinema screens."

"Without going down the French route, which protects the cinema with subsidy, we must have some balance of interest between television and the big screen." He suggested a financial incen-



Rare triumph: Collins and Swayze in *City of Joy*

tive scheme, similar to that in continental countries. Distribution networks are another obstacle. It is now virtually impossible for any British film-maker to con-

plate a production costing more than about £10 million without involving one of the Hollywood studios, which control the worldwide distribution machinery.

The way it isn't

CHANG BROWN



AS PROMISED, here is another instalment from the seasonal round-robin I've been sent by my dear American friends Al and Sally du Lally. Today: their daughter Jilly's outstanding achievements at school over the past year.

"In the spring, Jilly achieved the highest marks of the ENTIRE CLASS of 11-year-olds, a cause for double celebrations, as the news came just before her sixteenth birthday.

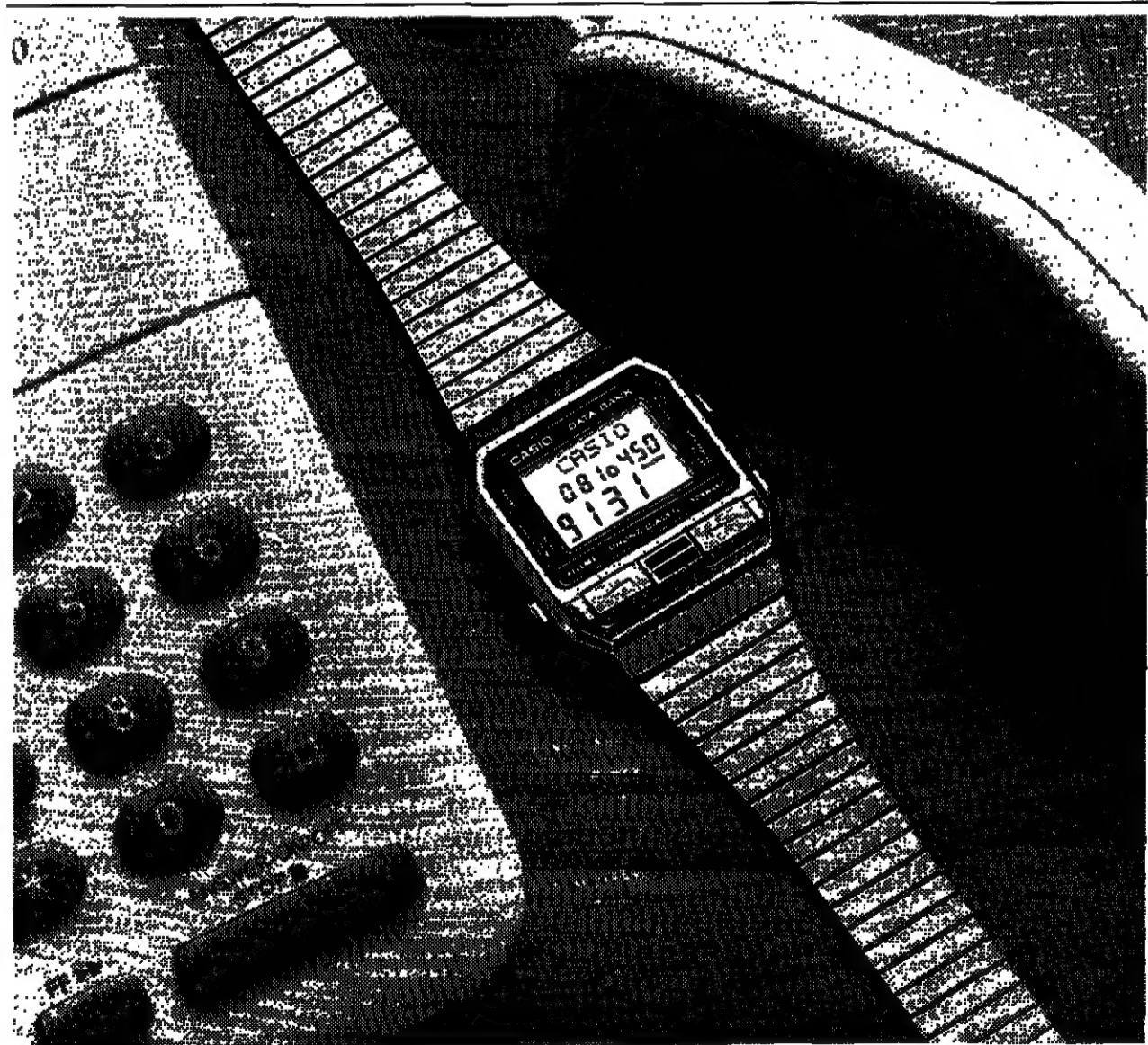
"Her cookery teacher tells us she is also coming along nicely in the kitchen, though happily the upsetting incident with the rock cake in May soon blew over, and we are thrilled to say they are expecting young Jeanie Simpson out of hospital some time early in the new year.

"In August, Jilly thoroughly enjoyed herself at summer camp, courageously overcoming her fear of water by stripping off all her garments and throwing herself into the lake each morning. She tells us the Sea Scouts were so impressed by her pluck they lined up at the lakeside every morning just to cheer her!

"And she landed the big role in the end-of-camp theater production put on by the kids themselves, playing the part of the grand old English aristocrat, Lady Godiva. Sadly, she didn't let on to us about it until it was over, but then that's Jilly: always too modest by half!

"Thankfully, Jilly has avoided the anorexia that can afflict girls of her age. In fact, she has been 'filling out' nicely, particularly around the waist. This is great news, as a few months ago she was looking a little peaky in the mornings! Cheers, y'all!"

Next week: Super news about Granny du Lally!



DBA800A/1 Price Guide: £45.99

THERE'S ONLY ONE WATCH SO ADVANCED IT CAN REMEMBER 50 TELEPHONE NUMBERS, AND DIAL THEM TOO.

When it comes to efficiency, these watches speak for themselves. Not only do they remember up to 50 telephone numbers and names but by simply holding the watch to the mouthpiece of the phone and then pressing a button, the watch will dial them for you too. Provided you are using a TouchTone telephone connected through a digital exchange.*

*If in doubt contact your local telephone exchange. TouchTone is a registered trade mark of British Telecommunications plc in the UK.

Both watches also come complete with the sort of useful features you expect a Casio watch to have; schedule alarms and world time display.

The DBA800A is a smart, traditional chrome cased watch while the DBA80 comes in a modern black resin case.

Casio. Precisely what you're looking for in a watch.



DBA80/1 Price Guide: £39.99

CASIO

ARGOS, BEAVERBROOKS, M M HENDERSON, F HINDS, JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP, RATNERS, H. SAMUEL, WALKER & HALL, LEADING DEPT. STORES, JEWELLERS AND SPORTS OUTLETS. Guide price correct at time of going to press. The watches shown are only a small selection — a comprehensive range can be seen at the above retailers. Some models may not be stocked by all outlets. Depth indicators are based on static water pressure in accordance with ISO standards.

Fixed rate mortgage

5.99%

8.90%

This could be just the mortgage offer you've been waiting for.

For a start it's set at a remarkably low rate but, better still, it's fixed until 1st September 1993.

Available for house purchases or remortgages, it means you can put the ups and downs of fluctuating mortgage payments behind you until well into next year.

After September, the rate is guaranteed not to rise above 8.55%

until 1st March 1994.

Call our freephone information line (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm*) or visit your local branch for full details.

But you'll have to be quick about it, because a rate this good won't be around for long.

Freephone 0800 526350

Britannia Building Society

Britannia Building Society, Newton House, Leeds, S11 3BG.
*See mortgage service is available outside these hours. For your protection Home Mortgage and Consumer Council is a condition of the mortgage. After 1st March 1994, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September 1993, the rate will be set at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) + 1% (TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Calculated on an interest only mortgage of £72,000 on a purchase price of £100,000 over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). From 1st September 1992, £22,400 is variable. The 1st payment (and 1st September 1993) is £22,400. From 1st September

Promises from Rio threaten to push up price of fuels

By Peter Riddell, Political Editor

FAR-reaching options including a carbon tax, which would raise the price of petrol and other fuels, and action to control the growth of road traffic will be outlined by the government next Monday.

These proposals will be included in a discussion paper from the Department of the Environment on how Britain can fulfil the commitments made under the climate change convention at the Rio summit last June. The main industrialised countries have agreed to put forward detailed plans for compliance by the end of next year.

Under the firm timetable the government needs to decide by then how Britain will return emissions of carbon dioxide to 1990 levels by the year 2000. The document will set out the options without any particular preference expressed. All the suggestions have been discussed by Whitehall departments and none has yet been ruled out.

Michael Howard has taken a close interest in green issues since becoming environment secretary last April and he is

keen to use market and price mechanisms rather than detailed regulations.

The main implications are for transport, which accounts for a quarter of carbon dioxide emissions and is the fastest growing source of such emissions. The discussion document will discuss what proportion of savings need come from transport, the scope for improving the fuel efficiency of cars, the relation-

ship between higher fuel prices and fuel efficiency, and reconciling increasing demands for mobility with environmental constraints.

The most controversial suggestion will be for a carbon tax since this would increase the price of fuels which result in carbon dioxide emissions. This could push up the cost of petrol and of electricity. The discussion paper will be affected by the outcome of the

government's separate review of energy policy in the light of the pit closures row.

The discussion paper is aimed at stimulating public debate not just among environmental groups but, in particular, in industry and among public sector energy users who will be directly affected by the decisions which have to be taken by the end of next year. The government does not want to rely on regulation but also wants to mobilise business and public utilities.

The paper is being published on Monday ahead of a meeting of the European Community council of environment ministers on Tuesday which will be discussing the next steps on climate change. The timing is intended to demonstrate Britain's commitment in this area.

Total emissions in 1990, the target level, were estimated at 160 million tonnes carbon. By 2000, unless there are changes, the central projection is for total emissions of 170 million tonnes, though some of the assumptions will be affected by the coal review.

PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK

Both Houses of Parliament will rise for the Christmas recess next Thursday. The main business in the Commons is expected to be:

Monday: Christmas recess motion and Consolidated Fund debates.
Tuesday: Timetable motion on the education bill. Civil service (management functions) bill, remaining stages.
Wednesday: Prisoners and criminal proceedings (Scotland) bill, remaining stages.

Thursday: Christmas adjournment debates.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Debate on pension funds.
Tuesday: British Coal and British Rail (transfer proposals) bill, report.
Wednesday: Debate on overseas aid.
Thursday: Mink Keeping Order and other orders.



Debt collector: Dennis Skinner checks the Chancellor's credit rating

Lamont denied amnesty

By Arthur Leathley

MOST Opposition MPs yesterday declared a pre-Christmas ceasefire on Norman Lamont's private finances when he addressed the Commons for the first time since his personal borrowing dominated the news.

For a couple of Labour members, however, there was no amnesty during Treasury questions. Dennis Skinner challenged Mr Lamont over exceeding his credit card spending limit: "If the Chancellor has decided on an individual policy of spending his way out of recession, why can't it apply to the rest of the country?" Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, did little to spare his superior's blushes, replying: "It is important to keep [spending] under control."

Dale Campbell-Savours refused to forget the Treasury's payment of £4,000 for Mr Lamont's solicitors' charges. Sir John Cope, the Paymaster General, who said that the Workington MP would "always do his best to try to cheapen debate".

Critics of Smith's public showing miss the point

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Much of this week's media flurry over John Smith's performance as Labour leader misses the point. The right test is not what he has done in public over the past five months but whether he is preparing Labour to be a credible contender for power in four years' time.

There are three strands of criticism. First, aired mainly in the Tory press, is that Mr Smith has not been aggressive enough in the Commons. Second, expressed mainly by Bryan Gould and by the left, is that Mr Smith is not providing a sufficient sense of direction or offering a distinctive alternative. Third, coming from the modernisers in the party's centre and from some friends of Neil Kinnock, is that Mr Smith is too cautious over internal reforms.

Talk about a knockout blow to bring down the government is nonsense. Mr Smith is sensibly hammering away rather than assuming the edifice will collapse overnight. While some of his early appearances at prime minister's questions were wooden, he has lately been sharper. Although his personal ratings in the polls are not particularly high, Labour has a big lead.

The more serious criticism is that Mr Smith is not doing enough to transform Labour. His conference speech missed an opportunity by failing to address the implications of last April's defeat. He has also given ambiguous signals over changing the party's links with the unions. Since his initial pledge to support a one member, one vote system, Mr Smith has allowed union leaders to gain the impression that he would be satisfied with a modification of the current structure. At the same time, he has assured the modernisers that he supports their desire for a fully-fledged change, scrapping the unions' block vote.

There has also been no sense of intellectual ferment. In part, Mr Smith's staff argue, that is because he has been preoccupied with attacking the government. Changes

are under way; the free-standing commission on social justice, including taxes and benefits, will be formally launched next Thursday, while party reviews of the constitution (excluding electoral reform, which is being separately considered) and Europe have been set up.

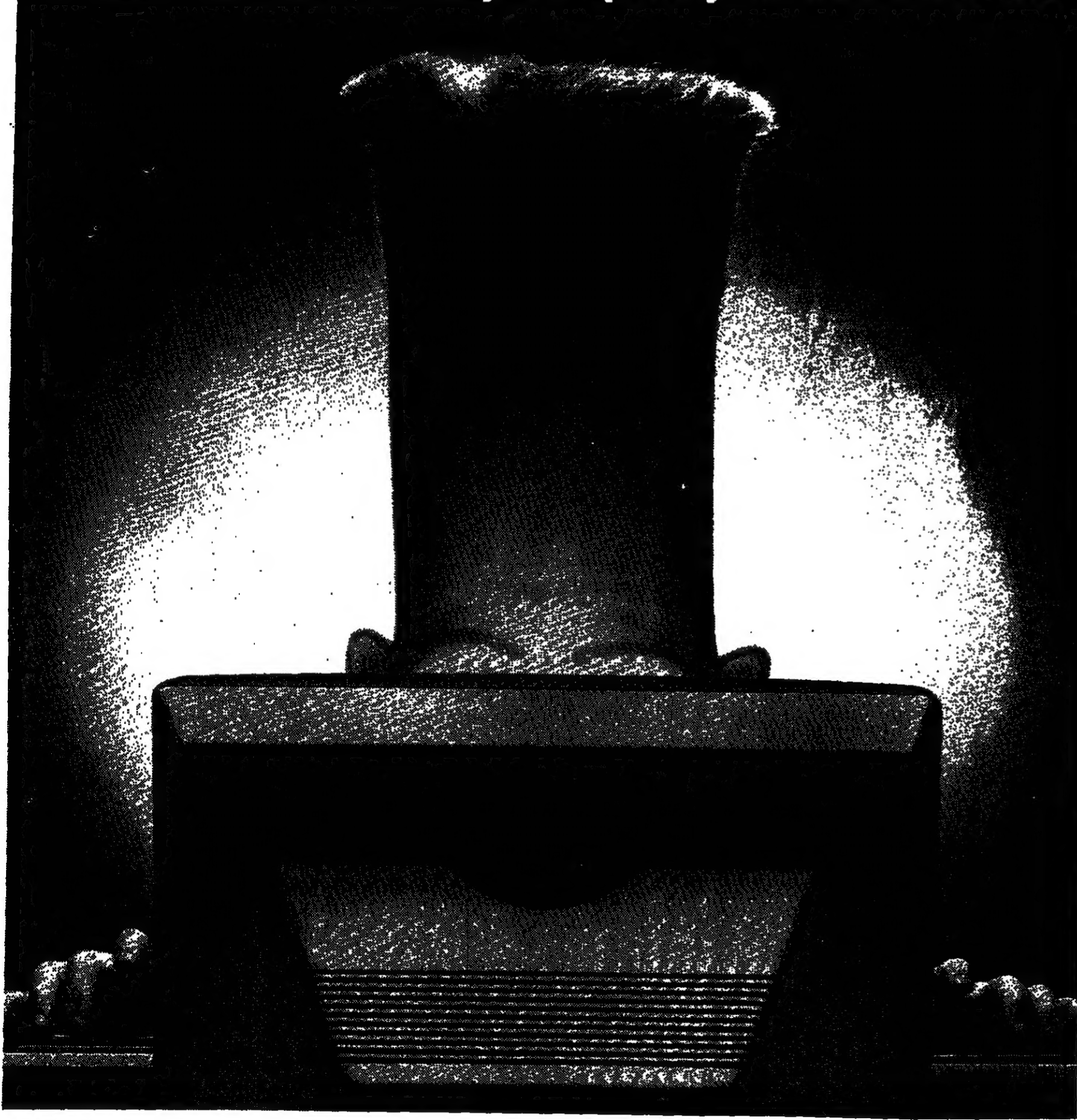
Mr Smith also wants to avoid the trap of the last parliament when specific promises on child benefits and pensions were made well ahead of the election. The emphasis now is on a rolling three-year programme of reviewing policy.

On the economy, Gordon Brown has been keen to clear the decks. He resisted party pressure to call for a devaluation of sterling before September 16 both because Labour should not seem to be adopting soft options and because it would give a strong card to the Tories. Since then he has returned to Labour's earlier theme of the need for confidence to revive the economy and reduce unemployment, while being cautious about detailed alternatives. However, in the new year he plans a series of speeches setting out the main themes of a new strategy to raise long-term economic performance.

Labour spent most of the last parliament reversing policies which damaged it in the past. Although new approaches were offered in other areas, these did not convince sufficient voters that it was worthwhile taking a risk with Labour. Now, with the government floundering over the economy and European policy, the party has to win the debate for its case for a more active role for government. Labour has by the end of 1993 to agree its internal reforms and to have started to show it is a new party with a new approach. Mr Smith cannot be complacent.

PETER RIDDELL

Amiga. The smartest way to expand your kids' software.



It's Christmas. The kids are pleading for the latest games machine. You want to give them something a little more highbrow.

It's a dilemma. But one, we're pleased to say, with an extremely happy compromise.

It's called the Amiga 600. A powerhouse of a computer created to expand the mind as well as quicken the reflexes.

Unlike a regular games console, the Amiga 600 comes with a massive 1 megabyte memory.

Which gives it all the brainpower necessary to tackle all kinds of educational software, from languages and maths to design and music.

Uniquely geared, in other words, to stretch any growing child's potential.

That's the sensible side. On the other hand, as a games machine it has no equal either. With fabulous graphics, 4096 colours and stereo sound it plugs straight into your TV. And there are over 3000 titles to choose from.

Enough, in fact, to go to any kid's head. And, as many are only half the price of a games console cartridge, you'll also be saving pots of money in the long term.

Indeed, the Amiga 600's astounding versatility, a starting price of only £299.99, plus our free one year home maintenance service has

made it far and away the best selling 16 bit computer in the world.

You can find out more by visiting any of the retailers below and picking up our leaflet on everything you need to know about buying a computer. Alternatively, you could give the kids a quick test drive.

Take it from us, if they don't already know how good the Amiga 600 is, you'll be seeing a few raised eyebrows.



COLLINS ENGLISH DICTIONARY

The gift that says everything.

The authority on current English.
35 million words of text.
£19.99 Available from all good booksellers.

HarperCollins Publishers



AMIGA 600 START-UP PACK - £49.99. AMIGA 600 THE WORLD THE WIDE AND THE WIDE START-UP PACK - £49.99. AMIGA 600 AS A STAND ALONE COMPUTER - £299.99. AMIGA 600 IS AVAILABLE AT SELECTED STORES OF ALLIED BRANDS: CALCULUS, CLYDEDALE, COLVINGTON, COMET, CO-OP, CURVING, DUNLOP, EASTERN ELECTRICITY, FERRIS, LIT, HARRISON, HOUSE OF FRANKS, HUBBARD, JACOBS PHOTO & VIDEO CENTRE, JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP, LEWIS'S, MARRIAGE, NEW FORTH STORES (INCLUDING REPAIRING, CONCEPTS), PAINFOLTS, SHERIDAN, SOUTHERN ELECTRIC, SINGH RETAIL LTD, TANDY, TESCO, TEMPO, VIRTUAL REALITY, VORWERKE & CO, WILKINSON AND ALL LEADING INDEPENDENT COMPUTER SPECIALISTS INCLUDING RASCO. MAIL ORDER AVAILABLE FROM ENAMEL STORES AND QUICK. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS 5/10/92

Rush with caution

AN OPEN ADDRESS TO THE HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Your Excellencies,

The maxim "Rush with Caution" has never lost its high significance and importance. It has always been observed that **a display of caution has never driven its proponents to regret their stance**. This is especially true when man is confronted with issues highly sensitive and perplexing.

The world dumbfounded is witnessing everyday the maelstrom of war into which the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina have been pushed. A maelstrom of destruction, heavy loss of life, unnecessary bloodshed and a stampede of tens of thousands of refugees.

It is now clear and unreservedly accepted that the rush to recognise this former Yugoslav Republic as an independent state was untimely. And no shedding of remorseful tears can rectify the damage done. However, it is an encouraging fact that from all concerned quarters, i.e. the United Nations, the United States, the Conference for Peace and the European Community, it is silently accepted that Greece's warnings were correct.

Is Europe willing to face the repetition of the same scenario within the area of the former Yugoslav Republic of Skopje? A republic, named Vardarska, which by a historically perverted act of Marshal Tito was renamed "Macedonia".

It should not be overlooked that this geographical region literally constitutes an exact miniature copy of former Yugoslavia. Ethnically, linguistically and religiously its composition is tantamount to a mosaic or a cocktail. **A cocktail which only needs an unheeded spark, to explode like a Molotov bomb!** Bulgarians, Serbians, so-called "Macedonians", Albanians, Wallahians, Greeks, Christian Orthodox, Catholics, Muslims, etc!

In order to avoid being pedantic we shall cite a few facts:

■ November 6, 1992. The regime's police assault and open fire against the Albanians. Result: Four dead and 35 wounded.

■ November 7, 1992. In spite of a prohibition, 20,000 Albanians organize a rally and demand "human rights and autonomy". "Mr. Gligorov is trying to extort a recognition from the European Community", is their outcry.

■ November 9, 1992. A poll conducted by the State Research Institute of Skopje, discovered that only a mere 17% of the people questioned consider as a priority the recognition of the Republic under the name "Macedonia".

■ November 10, 1992. Mr. Nevsat Halili, leader of the Albanians addresses the E.C. and demands from its Council "to withhold recognition because the human, political, ethnic and religious rights of the Albanians and other second category citizens are being suppressed". Interviewed by "Die Zeit" he states: "The government of Skopje is driving things to a civil confrontation worse than the Bosnian one".

■ November 11, 1992. The Skopje Minister of Security declares: "Iran and Libya are funding the fanatic islamists". And from the other side the Mufti (Muslim leader) of Skopje denounces that "all ottoman muslim shrines are being christianized".

■ November 15, 1992. Albanian President Mr. Shali Berisha warns that "before any recognition, the republic (Skopje), should become a state for all its citizens". Greece took the initiative to proclaim, together with Bulgaria, Serbia and Albania, that they guarantee the borders of this former Yugoslav republic. But Mr. Gligorov, in a show of his perpetual intransigence, rejected the Greek proclamation.

Your Excellencies,

- We trust that the Lisbon Resolution has been adopted to stay.
- We are struggling to attain the convergence of our economy according to the Maastricht Treaty.
- We need peace, and peace is needed by the inhabitants of the Skopje republic.
- We are once more sure that you will avoid undermining our unwavering faith towards a united and peaceful Europe and you will prove the solidarity of Community.

As far as the name Macedonia is concerned, permit us to quote the former Secretary of State Mr. Henry Kissinger who said: "I believe that Greece is rightfully opposed to the (usurped) name. The reason is that I know history."

We trust that Your Excellencies being equally if not more familiar with history, will safeguard the European legacy and will not permit a recognition that will be equal to a contempt of History. Confucius' maxim "The cautions seldom err" is always valid.

PANTELIS TH. KONSTANTINIDIS
PRESIDENT

THESSALONIKI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Nato rejects further action to enforce Bosnia settlement

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN BRUSSELS

NATO defence ministers met in what was called a reflective and sombre mood yesterday to discuss the continuing killing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but rejected any suggestion that they send in troops to enforce a settlement between the warring factions.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, who arrived for the Brussels meeting directly from Split after his 48-hour visit to Bosnia, even cautioned against enforcing the "no-fly zone" over the former Yugoslav republic. Serbian military helicopters continue to fly over Bosnia, ignoring the ban imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

Mr Rifkind said that enforcement of the ban could endanger the UN troops in Bosnia, implying that the Serbs would take revenge on them if Serbian aircraft were shot down. A British patrol with the UN forces in Bosnia was fired at on Wednesday but

there were no injuries. Major Juan Villalon, a Spanish spokesman with the UN, said that the British patrol "was engaged by mortar" at Turbe, near Travnik, a mainly Slav Muslim city 60 miles north-west of Sarajevo.

Washington has said that it is considering enforcing the air-exclusion zone, but British sources at yesterday's Nato defence planning committee said: "No one here showed enthusiasm for enforcement."

The dilemma facing Nato was summed up by an official who said: "There were no bright ideas from ministers for doing anything more in Bosnia."

The threat of the conflict spilling over into Kosovo and other regions was not discussed in any detail. Only Nevzat Ayaz, the Turkish defence minister, called for additional military steps, including a lifting of the arms embargo on the Muslim side in Bosnia. However, he did not call

specifically for military intervention.

In spite of the reluctance of the ministers to countenance any action in Bosnia other than humanitarian relief, Nato planners are preparing to respond to any new request for military assistance from the UN. British officials admitted that the situation was much gloomier than was predicted immediately after the end of the Cold war. Nato, they said, had to be much better prepared to respond quickly to calls for help.

"The military staff here are now tuning themselves up, but they are not preparing specific contingency plans for action in Bosnia because there is no agreed objective," one British source said. The source added that Manfred Wörner, Nato's secretary-general, was in regular contact with Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, representing "a marked change from six months ago".



Life line: people queuing for water yesterday at one of the few distribution points in Sarajevo where supplies of water and electricity are becoming scarcer

Secular Muslims turn to Islam in quest for arms

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN TRAVNIK

At first it was just a whisper, a word quietly mouthed among the markets and mosques as Bosnia was laid waste, its people murdered and their houses turned to ashes.

Now it is spoken aloud: betrayal. You, the West, have betrayed us say Bosnia's Muslims, so we will turn to the east and Islam. As Serb forces continue their seemingly unstoppable advance across Bosnia, support is growing among the country's previously almost secular Muslims for an alliance with the Arab and Islamic world.

In places such as Travnik the city of betrayal resounds louder. This city of 17 mosques, a fort and an Islamic college, was once the seat of a Turkish vizier under the Ottomans, when the Bosnian Slavs converted to Islam. The mixed population of 70,000 is swollen by 20,000 refugees.

"I know that I'm a Bosnian Muslim, but I don't know how I am going to defend myself," said Ahmet, a soldier in his 40s fighting in the Bosnian army. "The arms embargo must be lifted and we know that the Arab world is working on it." Serb forces are just a few miles up the road outside the village of Turbe, which is pounded daily. Travnik, too, is comfortably within range of their big guns and is regularly shelled. The boom and rumble of the fighting echoes around its streets.

"Serbs call us Muslim fundamentalists but the Muslims here are the most modern in the world," Ahmet said. "But this is a fight for survival. I've been through many danger zones and across front lines and what I have seen is complete madness. Everything is destroyed and burnt down. So people are trying to save themselves and grasping at any straw."

A few miles outside Travnik is the fortified and closed off Mujahidin base, home to a few hundred fighters from Arab and Islamic countries. At first the strictly religious Mujahidin were not welcomed by local Bosnians, but attitudes are changing.

"Educated Muslims are silent about the Mujahidin," said Davor, a local Croat journalist. Some Croats fear they are influencing Bosnian Muslims with an alien form of Islam. "Part of the Muslim population is turning suddenly and strongly to the East."

They feel betrayed and for them the Mujahidin are brave and capable people who are killing the Chetniks.

Even with a new unified Croat-Bosnian command, reinforcements and Mujahidin near by, Travnik could still fall. "The Serbs have the power to conquer Bosnia," said Filip Filipovic, a commander in the Bosnian-Croat army. "They are playing a game of negotiation and if the UN does not act decisively, it will be giving a permit to aggression."

The fall of Travnik would be a military and moral disaster. Just as the destroyed town of Vukovar was once a symbol of Croat resistance, Travnik is a symbol of the Bosnian fight against the Serbs. The city is shaped like a half open book, "illuminated with gardens, streets, houses, fields, graveyards and mosques". So wrote the city's most famous son, Ivo Andric, winner of the Nobel prize for literature, in his book, *Travnik Chronicles*.

Now the mosques are boarded up against shells and mortars and the graveyards, filled with Muslim and Croat soldiers, are crowded with weeping mourners. But more than the political or military cost of losing the city would be the human one: the tidal wave of tens of thousands of refugees, many forced out for the second time, flooding through Bosnia.

As Serbs advance daily, more and more Muslim refugees in this part of Bosnia draw parallels between themselves and the Palestinians, raising the spectre of a guerrilla war being waged across the Balkans by angry and dispossessed people.

"We are like Palestinians," said Memet, 25, a refugee now living in Zenica near by. "Bosnian Muslims will fight until we get our land back. We won't be satisfied with just a part of our country. If we have a liberation organisation I will join it, that's 100 per cent certain, and we will fight until the end."

□ The Hague: Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, last night called for military intervention to stop the killing in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "I do not give a damn who takes the initiative," he told parliament. "I just think it is scandalous that we can do it in Somalia and not in Yugoslavia." (Reuter)

100 STARS IN A WEEK ON SKY. IT MUST BE CHRISTMAS.



BRING THE STARS INTO YOUR HOME THIS CHRISTMAS.

Sky has a galaxy of stars and a host of great movies lined-up for Christmas.

Stars like Anthony Hopkins, Jodie Foster, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Steve Martin, Jamie Lee Curtis and Kevin Costner.

Hardly surprising really. We do screen over 300 movies a month, 9 movies a night and at least one TV premiere a week.

So if you want to get the family one present they won't get bored with by Boxing Day, get Sky. Now do you believe in Father Christmas?

CHRISTMAS MOVIE HIGHLIGHTS.

DICK TRACY*
BLUE STEEL*
SCROOGE*
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES 2*
YOUNG GUNS 2*
HOME ALONE*
THE GODFATHER 3*
THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS*
FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN*
KINDERGARTEN COP*
DANCES WITH WOLVES*
THREE MEN AND A LITTLE LADY*
GUILTY BY SUSPICION*
THE SOUND OF MUSIC*
SCENES FROM A MALL*
L.A. STORY*

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS.

LIVE FA. PREMIER LEAGUE FOOTBALL
Crystal Palace v Leeds Utd. Dec. 20th
Norwich City v Ipswich Town Dec. 21st
Oldham Athletic v Liverpool Dec. 26th
Aston Villa v Arsenal Dec. 28th

THE ENGLAND TOUR OF INDIA.
Live and Exclusive coverage of all the Tests and One-Day matches from January 16th, 1993.

A GREAT SATELLITE DEAL AT Currys

Currys have come up with a great deal this Christmas. You can get an Amstrad satellite dish and receiver for just £179.99. Plus installation guaranteed the next working day.

£179.99*
(AMSTRAD SRD510/SDM60)

*When you subscribe to both Movie Channel and Sky Sports (£19.98 per month for 12 months minimum subscription). Installation extra by 10th Dec 1992. Ask for details.

FREE INFORMATION BROCHURE.

Simply phone the number below and we'll be pleased to send all the information you need about Sky Television.

0506 460 888

Lines open daily 9am to 12 midnight.



BRINGING TELEVISION TO LIFE

Sky Movies Gold is available from all participating independent video suppliers to both The Movie Channel and Sky Movies Plus. Programmes listed are subject to availability. The Price List and the Price Channel are available from all participating independent video suppliers. The Price List and the Price Channel are available from all participating independent video suppliers. The Price List and the Price Channel are available from all participating independent video suppliers.

NOTICE TO HALIFAX VISA CARD CUSTOMERS

Halifax Building Society announces a reduction in the rate of interest charged on its Halifax Visa Card with effect from 15th January 1993. Condition 4.1 in the Conditions of Use is varied accordingly with effect from that date.

The current rate of 1.85% per month is to be reduced to 1.74% per month. Including the annual fee, for transactions other than cash advances, the new typical APR will be 24.2% (based on a typical credit limit of £1,000). For cash advances, the new typical APR will be 26.1% (on a typical cash advance of £1,000).

The new rate will be shown on statements issued on or after 15th January 1993. Interest will be charged at the new rate on any balance (from statements dated 14th December 1992 and after) which remains outstanding on or after 15th January 1993.

In addition, the current interest rate payable on certain credit balances under Condition 3.3 in the Conditions of Use is to be reduced to 4.00% gross p.a. with effect from 15th January 1993.

Credit interest will be paid net of basic rate income tax (currently 25%) or gross on receipt of the required declaration form. All interest rates quoted are variable. Full terms and conditions together with details of when interest is paid are available from any Halifax branch. New cardholders will receive notification of these changes with their new cards.



Halifax Building Society, Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2RG.

Germans change tack on £8 billion development programme following intervention by Kohl

European fighter to go ahead after R  he surrenders

■ About 20,000 British jobs have been secured for now, but there is no certainty that Bonn will agree to the next stage — production

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN BRUSSELS

THE four-nation European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) was officially saved yesterday after Germany, the reluctant partner, agreed to continue with the £2.2 billion programme.

The decision was seen by British officials as a victory for Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, who has remained committed to the fighter in spite of pressure from the Germans to replace it with a totally new aircraft, and from the Treasury worried about the cost of the programme. Volker R  he, the German defence minister, who thought he had succeeded in killing the project by announcing Germany's withdrawal from the programme earlier this year, told his counterparts from Britain, Spain and Italy, that Bonn would remain committed to the development phase.

A statement from all four defence ministers, making clear that the fighter was still a going concern, was issued last night after a Nato defence planning meeting here.

official, prime contractor for EFA, said: "Today is a watershed for the future of the European defence industry. EFA is back on course."

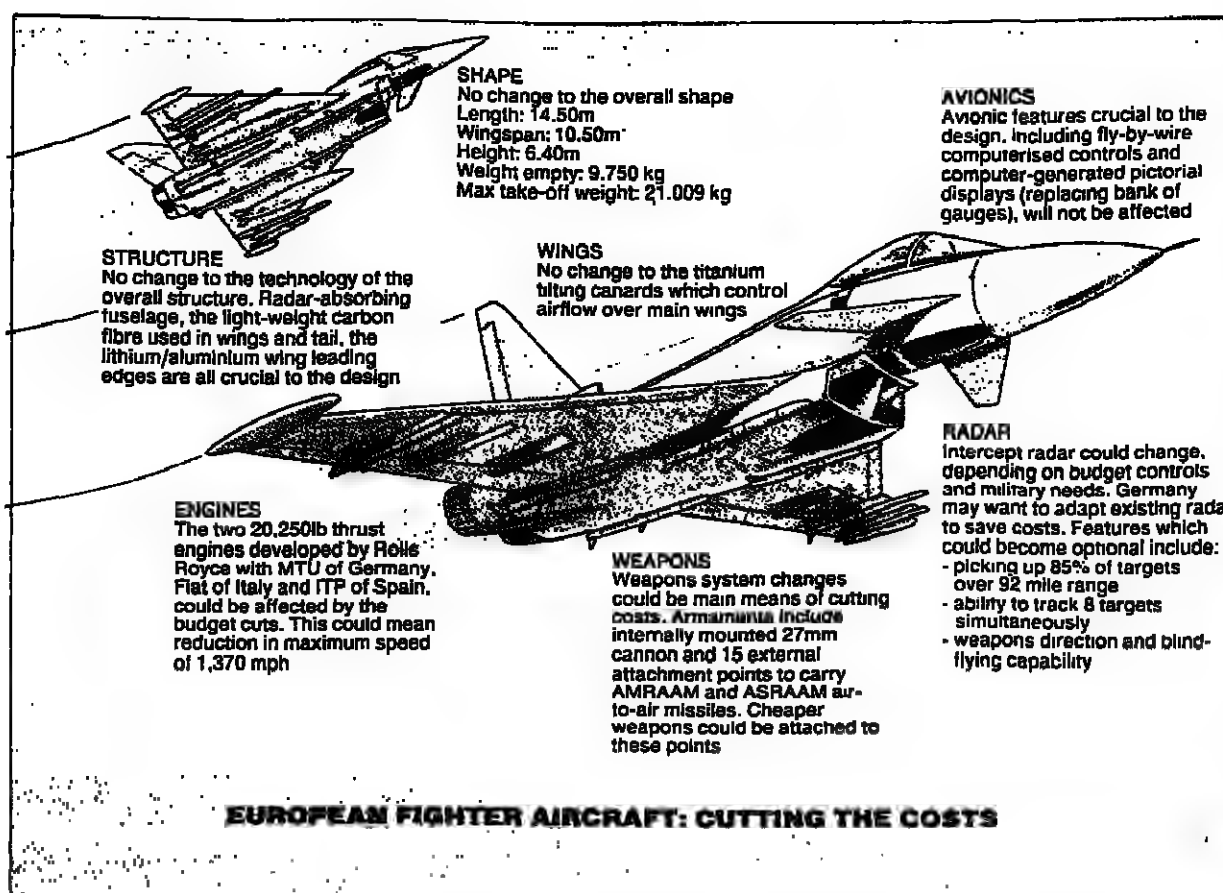
Convinced that Herr R  he had been forced to change course, British officials privately were exultant at the turn of events. Until yesterday's meeting of the four ministers, Herr R  he had shown no sign of relenting. Even when a three-month study showed that a 30 per cent cut in costs could be achieved, he was dismissive. He supported the development of a European fighter, but he wanted it to be a different design, much cheaper, and less sophisticated, "more suited to the post-Cold War era."

Yesterday, he admitted: "You can't have a brand new plane because we've already spent 50 per cent of the development money." However, he claimed that his fight for a cheaper aircraft had been vindicated. All four countries, he said, had agreed a new concept for EFA which was in

line with what he had in mind. British officials, however, said the aircraft would have the same air frame and the same twin Rolls-Royce engines.

Although the German and British ministers were putting a different gloss on yesterday's decision, each seemed to be satisfied. However, Herr R  he said development would have to be slowed, and that Bonn would not make a decision on production until 1995.

An initial investment decision for the production phase is due next spring to allow for industry to start "tooling up" for construction. It is not clear whether this will also have to be postponed. British Aerospace, whose EFA factory is at Warton in Preston, Lancashire, would be reluctant to have any serious delays. However, British officials said there would be no problem in leaving the main production phase decision until 1995. Britain and Italy want EFA to be in service by the year 2000. Germany and Spain are prepared to wait until 2002.



Rifkind: adamant on need for sophisticated fighter



R  he: firmly denied being forced to change policy

Herr R  he's about-turn, ordered by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, was combined with a vigorous face-saving exercise. Herr R  he and his officials emphasised that there was still no decision in Bonn whether Germany would join the production phase. But British officials believe that by committing themselves to the remaining period of the £8 billion development, the Germans will have to join in production.

Survival of the fighter will safeguard the jobs of 40,000 people in Britain, who are involved directly and indirectly in the programme. Firms involved GEC, Ferranti, and Smith Industries. At least 20,000 jobs had also been in the balance in Germany, one of the factors which persuaded Herr Kohl to over-rule his defence minister.

All partners in the programme will now be able to select from a family of EFAs, sometimes referred to as an *   la carte* choice. The cheapest version available to the Germans has been priced at 90 million marks each, including support costs. This represents a 30 per cent reduction in costs. The Germans will drop the advanced defence equipment, and may install existing radar on their Phantom jets rather than the new ECR90 radar designed by GEC Ferranti.

The RAF, which wants 250 EFAs, to replace the Phantom, Jaguar, and eventually the air defence version of Tornado, is likely to go for the top range. Herr R  he firmly denied that he had been forced to

change his mind. He said that he had achieved everything he wanted, and that the three other partners had now agreed to go for a new type of aircraft. However, British officials feel that Herr R  he, who appeared to be staking his political reputation on scrapping EFA, had overplayed his hand. In trying to persuade the Italian and Spanish defence ministers to withdraw he had misjudged their motives for querying the cost. While he was concerned with the politics of the programme, they were only interested in the price.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess's boyfriend sentenced

Nice: Daniel Ducruet, 28, father of Princess Stephanie of Monaco's newborn son, has been fined about £470 in absentia and sentenced to a 15-day suspended jail term for beating up an amorous.

He and his friend were convicted of the January assault near here. The former bodyguard has fled in Monaco, beyond French law, since his arrest was ordered. (Reuters)

Case dropped

Paris: The Senate has abandoned efforts to bring Laurent Fabius, the former prime minister, to trial over haemophilia contracting Aids through blood transfusions when he was in office. (Reuters)

Executive quits

Bonn: D  mmer-Benz said it had accepted the resignation of Karl Dersch, a marketing director, who was flying Germany's imperial flag at home. The flag has become a neo-Nazi symbol. (Reuters)

'Gods' reopens

Milan: La Scala opera house has reversed its ban on spectators in the cheap seats at tonight's performance of Verdi's *Don Carlos* after they booed Luciano Pavarotti at Monday's opening night. (Reuters)

Bonn bans second neo-Nazi group

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, told the Bundestag that his government would act strongly against right-wing and racist violence. As the government moved yesterday to ban another neo-Nazi group, he called on families, schools and churches to contribute to the struggle against the enemies of democracy.

The ban on the German Alternative party was immediately followed by police raids in Cottbus on the home of Frank H  bner, its leader, and of other party members in several areas. Documents and computer discs were seized. Two members were arrested in Hoyerswerda, near Dresden, on suspicion of attacking an Italian pizzeria two weeks ago and seriously wounding a worker there.

The moves against the neo-Nazis still seem to lack the ruthless efficiency of those against left-wing terrorists in the past. Following the banning of the Nationalist Front on November 27, neo-Nazis have had plenty of time to hide incriminating material. Moreover, the German Alternative is only one of a number of interlinked neo-Nazi organisations set up or encouraged by Michael K  hnen, who died of Aids last year. They have been growing fast, especially in eastern Germany.

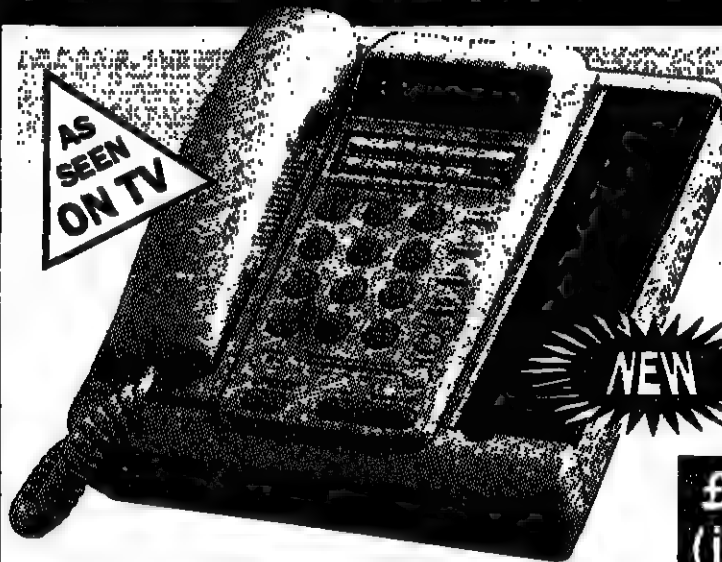
In separate operations on Thursday, the police arrested two members of another neo-

Nazi group, the "Werewolf Hunting Unit", and charged them with supplying weapons to the extreme right. The prosecutor's statement says that since the middle of last year, they sold at least two machineguns and 250 hand grenades.

In his speech to the Bundestag, Herr Kohl said that police measures alone would not be enough "to bring people to correct behaviour". He said that past experience has shown that reforms in education can be many times more effective.

He called on the whole of society to help in giving young people "support and direction", and to support the state in combating violence whether of the left or right. People must be aware that "human dignity is our highest good", he said. Whoever offends against it, "attacks the basis of our free and democratic state". □ Berlin: The chief judge at the manslaughter trial of Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, presented documents he said showed that Herr Honecker gave orders to shoot at anyone trying to flee across the East German border. Judge Hansgeorg Br  utigam presented the documents following earlier testimony by Heinz Kessler, Herr Honecker's former defence minister, that there were no orders to shoot at escapees. (AP)

AMSTRAD FAX MACHINES UK'S No.1 SELLERS



COMPACT DESKTOP FAXPHONE
FULL HANDS FREE SPEAKER PHONE

- AMSTRAD FX7000**
FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS:
- Hands-free fully featured speakerphone.
 - Telephone - 20 memories and 9 one-touch dialling keys.
 - Mercury "Blue Button".
 - Advanced fax features - automatic reception, receive polling and automatic redial.
 - Local Copy Facility.
 - Compatibility - PBXs and access to BT Star Service.
 - "Straight Fax" Technology - prevents curling of thermal paper.
 - 12 month on-site warranty.

DESIGNED FOR MINIMUM SPACE
FAX PHONE COPIER

UK'S BEST SELLING FAX MACHINE

FOR ALL YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS

AMSTRAD FX6000AT

- FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS:
- Remote Access Answer Machine.
 - Tone dial pad included.
 - Automatic fax/tel switch.
 - 5 sheet automatic document feeder.

£499.99 (inc. VAT)

FAX • PHONE • COPIER
ANSWER MACHINE

- Automatic paper cutter.
- Local Copy Facility.
- Mercury "Blue Button".
- Speed Dialling - 30 fax and 30 phone numbers.
- 12 month on-site warranty.



TOTAL COMMUNICATION PACKAGE



FAX PHONE COPIER

SPECIAL OFFER PRICE £269.99 (inc. VAT)

AMSTRAD FX5050

- FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS:
- 10 Sheet automatic document feeder.
 - Automatic paper cutter.
 - Telephone handset - 13 number memory store (3 one touch).

- Local copy facility.
- Half tone features - Pictures, photographs and graphics use up to 16 scales of grey.
- Flagged pages - each page sent is automatically flagged.
- 12 month on-site warranty.

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET WHILE STOCKS LAST
LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

THE COMPLETE RANGE AT **COMET**

All items subject to availability. All prices shown include VAT, where a saving is stated this is based on a previous price available at Comet for a period of 28 consecutive days in the previous 6 months. Prices correct at the time of going to press. We reserve the right to alter or amend prices or offers without prior notification.

For details of your nearest branch ring 081-200 0200

PERSIAN CARPET WHARF
Sourcers, Clearance Buyers & Importers of Oriental rugs
MASSIVE 2 DAY SELL-OUT

from
ORIENTAL CARPET WAREHOUSE
Over 4000 items, more than 150,000 sq. ft.
ALL GUARANTEED AUTHENTIC HANDKNOTTED
PERSIAN/ORIENTAL CARPETS
Rugs & Runners, in Wool & Silk
All sizes, types and traditional origins

THIS WEEKEND
SATURDAY 12 DEC. & SUNDAY 13 DEC.
10am-5 pm each day

Vast amount superb merchandise obtained at very low cost mainly from crisis situations in recession-hit international Oriental carpet trade
- e.g. Entire Stock of defunct old-established European Wholesalers acquired as a job lot.
- e.g. Vast shipment of items pawned against huge loan, incl. many Oversize carpets, etc.

ALL STOCK PRICED FOR TOTAL SELL-OUT

All merchandise individually priced and tagged. Payments: Cash, cheques, major Credit Cards
PRICES INCLUSIVE VAT + EXCHANGE GUARANTEE + AMPLE PARKING
PERSIAN CARPET WHARF
110 Pennington St., Wapping, London E1
from Tower Bridge, off Wapping Highway at Artichoke Hill, by Saab, nr Tobacco Dock.
Tel.: (Mon-Fri) 071-589 4225 (Sat & Sun) 071-488 0809

HALIFAX
VISA

Spain threatens to block summit deal over budget plans

By GEORGE BROCK

BRITAIN last night circulated new compromise proposals on the EC's budget for the 1990s in the hope of avoiding a deadlock over money at the summit, but Spain cast serious doubt on prospects for a deal.

The new figures are unlikely to satisfy either Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, who asked for a 30 per cent increase in the EC's budget earlier this year, or the Community's four poorest states led by Spain, which want a sizeable increase in their subsidies. Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, said was not enough either on the expenditure or the resources side in the British proposals, and there would "probably not" be a deal at the summit.

Finance battles are familiar terrain. The technical work on a 30-page budget agreement has been completed by officials and only a few figures have to be filled in after haggling between the politicians.

Mr Major finds himself in a stronger position on the plan known after its author as "Delors II" than on most



others. The British budget rebate has been attacked with regularity by other governments, and with special ferocity by Germany, the largest contributor to the EC, but has not been dented and will survive. This year the discount is worth around £1.4 billion, reducing Britain's contribution from £3.5 billion to just over £2 billion. Over the past seven years the rebate won by Mrs Thatcher has benefited Britain to the tune of £12.5 billion.

Unless something goes seriously awry, Mr Major should also be able to tell his suspicious backbenchers that he

has held the budget down to a lower rate of increase than Mrs Thatcher, while preserving her rebate. A deliberately low negotiating offer made by Britain two weeks ago can be gently raised without showing increases which will ring political alarm bells at Westminster. Britain has already offered a 20 per cent budget increase.

By raising the total increase slightly and raising contingency funds and "headroom" left in the pencilled figures for the late 1990s, more money may be squeezed into the most controversial part of this budget, the "cohesion fund". This money, devoted to Spain, Ireland, Portugal and Greece, will not amount to more than a tenth of that which these states get from other forms of EC funds for Europe's poorer areas, but has acquired symbolic importance. One of the hardest pieces of the entire bargain is to balance the shares of the fund which will go to each of the four states.

Germany would like the fund held to no more than £8 billion and the "Club Med" governments are arguing for £12 billion. Señor Gonzalez will at the end have to make a fine political and not financial calculation. Does he break up the summit and hope that he can squeeze more from another wrangle early next year under the Danish EC presidency? Or does he settle for a figure below his target and bank the money sooner? The state of Western Europe's economies — and of strapped German public finances above all — may persuade him to opt for jam today and not tomorrow.

If Señor Gonzalez decides to settle, despite his opening gambit, many Spanish obstacles to other summit decisions will melt away. "It really is extraordinary how much the Spanish have been studying and imitating Mrs Thatcher's style of budget negotiation," a British official mused.

Subsidiarity debate, page 18
Nicholas Ridley and Diary, page 18
Leading article and letters, page 19



A welcome in the hills: in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle, Pipe Major Steven Young gives the European Community summiters a musical greeting to the city yesterday

Socialist leaders plan for growth and jobs

By RAY CLANCY

A THREE-point plan for jobs and growth was agreed at a meeting of European socialist leaders hosted by John Smith, the Labour leader, in Edinburgh yesterday.

They called for national economic policies to be co-ordinated to allow countries to lower interest rates and fix realistic exchange rates; the setting up of the European works programme including transport projects for Eastern Europe; and a reorganisation of working hours to allow employment to be shared.

Mr Smith said after the declaration was released that Mr Major had missed an opportunity to put these measures at the top of the summit agenda. "The real challenge of

the Edinburgh summit is to do something to create jobs." National efforts would be boosted by Europe-wide initiatives and cross-border projects.

The declaration, and the politicians, gave no hint of how these projects would work and only referred to areas in broad terms. The declaration mentioned, for example, the development of a modern transport and communication infrastructure that would be partially funded by European Investment Bank loans. It also mentioned the urgent need to ratify the Maastricht treaty. Only that would recover a lot of the confidence that was lost with the Danish "No" vote and the close result in the French referendum.

Edinburgh rises to the extravaganza

By RAY CLANCY

THE blue and gold starred Euro flags fluttered in a gentle breeze and, most glorious of all, the sun shone in Edinburgh yesterday as European leaders arrived for their summit.

The assembled leaders simply did not realise their luck. In a guide printed by the district council the bad news was there for all to see: Edinburgh averages just 1.3 hours of bright sunshine a day in December. Yet somehow the Athens of the North put on a startling show. Even the Christmas shoppers had smiles on their faces as they coped with the road closures, parking restrictions and an extra police presence on one of the sunniest winter days for many years.

Today and tomorrow the ordinary people have the chance to take part. Fishermen march through the city centre and then hold a rally at

a football ground, and regiments that are under threat or being merged are also taking to the streets. On Saturday a huge street party is planned. From a stage in the High Street Scottish rock bands will entertain the crowds.

Security is tight. Lothian and Borders police have set up roadblocks to search suspicious vehicles. Drains in the city centre have been sealed and 15 sniffer dogs regularly patrol the buildings where summit events are taking place.

The bombs in Manchester last week have heightened fears about terrorism. At the weekend police seized a number of computer disks on sale for £3 at a market in Glasgow. They show how to make explosives, radio-controlled devices and nitroglycerine.

The Euro extravaganza, the biggest event Edinburgh has

seen for more than 50 years according to Norman Irons, the Lord Provost, who insists on wearing his kilt everywhere, has cost £6.5 million to stage. The bill is being picked up by the government.

Almost half the money — £3 million — has been spent on media facilities at Meadowbank sports centre for the 2,500 journalists, television crews and photographers. A fleet of buses ferries them to and from the Palace of Holyroodhouse for press conferences, and the latest information is relayed to the press centre by giant television screens.

The transformation of the palace into a modern conference centre took two months and cost £2 million. The antiques were moved into storage and replaced by telephone lines, fax machines, computers and other high-tech equipment. In the King's

bedchamber ne four-poster still stands in its usual place surrounded by office equipment. It was deemed too fragile to move.

In the main conference room where the deals will be hammered out, Jim Conquer, a master craftsman, has created an oak forage for the translators' booths to match the original wall panelling. Outside, a blue-and-white striped marquee has been put up next to the ruins of the abbey to cope with the overflow from the dining room, which has proved to be too small.

The rest of the money has gone on catering, car hire and sub-contractors. The city expects to benefit to the tune of £11 million, with the media alone spending £3.3 million and delegates and visitors £4 million. The city's shopkeepers are predicting a bumper week.

If you demand business class service check out our satisfaction guarantee.

Belfast	£80	Glasgow	£80	Manchester Airport	£80
Birmingham	£80	Glasgow Airport	£80	Millom Keynes	£80
Brighouse	£80	Goucester	£80	Newcastle Upon Tyne	£80
Bristol	£80	Guildford	£80	Nottingham	£80
Cardiff	£80	Heathrow	£80	Sheffield	£80
Exeter	£80	Hull	£80	Southampton	£80
Exeter	£80	Leeds Bradford	£80	Swansea	£80
Exeter	£80	London St James	£80	Swindon	£80
Exeter	£80	London Bloomsbury	£80	Winchester	£80
Exeter	£80	London Regent's Park	£80		

Prices are per room per night for single or double occupancy.

At Forte Crest, if you're not completely satisfied with your stay, we'll pay for your next night with us.

It's a commitment we call our Business Class Satisfaction Guarantee.

It covers a full range of benefits and services. And it gives you the opportunity to tell us whether you're satisfied.

So you not only get an amazing deal, you get the benefit of a business class service that's

guaranteed. Isn't that worth checking out next time you're away on business?

For reservations: 0800 40 40 40

Or contact your travel agent.

**FORTE
CREST**

In a business class of its own

Delors award outshines the Euro-hecklers

By TOM RHODES

IN THE sea of multi-coloured academic finery at Edinburgh University's McEwan Hall yesterday, Jacques Delors, dressed in the red gown and hood of a doctor *honoris causa*, could so easily have been mistaken for just another greying professor.

But the European Commission president, whose ambitions stretch at least as far as the Elysée Palace, would never wish to be judged as just another man in the crowd — and indeed, he was not.

No sooner had Sir David Smith, vice-chancellor of the university, risen to confer M Delors with his degree than the heckling started, and leaflets of Euro-sceptic intent rained on those present. The EC Unwelcoming Committee inside the senate building may have only amounted to three, but they made sure their voices were heard.

M Delors must have seen the irony of the event. Coming just a day before the European summit, the university was doubtless aware for some months that he would be unlikely to withdraw at the last minute. Yet, while the hecklers had been given ample preparation, the university's chancellor, the Duke of Edinburgh, could



Man of honour: M Delors receives his degree at Edinburgh University yesterday

not be present. The duke, it seems, had prior engagements and, in view of recent events, it was unlikely he would have welcomed such a public appearance.

Not that M Delors seemed to mind. After an initial burst when a "Don't bulldoze Europe" banner was hung from the central balcony, the EC president spoke for 15 uninterrupted minutes.

"I'm well aware, of course, that I am here today as an intermediary, that it is the process of European integration that is being honoured through me," he said in English heavily laced with

Galic overtone. Have we succeeded? he asked. "The answer is a ringing yes. Perhaps the brasses could do with a little spit and polish, but Europe's single market will be open for business on new year's day."

The response he received was, by Scottish standards, rapturous. But then Edinburgh, and indeed Scotland, has perhaps always felt a closer affinity to Europe than its southern neighbours.

M Delors joins an eminent group of those who have previously received doctorates, including Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor,

former President Cossiga of Italy, President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, and last but not least, President Mitterrand's wife Danielle.

Many of the students who had turned out to witness the ceremony were active campaigners for the European Society, a group set up only a year ago which now boasts the highest membership of any organisation on campus.

"I was very disappointed with the way he was treated," said Vani Mowat, a second-year language student. "This is not the place to heckle a man who has clearly done so much for Europe."

European leaders look to past in facing the future

■ The EC has also had an *annus horribilis*. Whatever the summit outcome, its identity crisis will not have been resolved

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

WHEN Jacques Delors gave his traditional pre-summit pep talk to Europe on the eve of the European Community meeting of heads of state and government starting in Edinburgh today, his speech was not only downbeat and disappointed but heavily historical. The man who regularly urges Europe to look to the future dwelt heavily on the past.

M Delors is not alone in his reluctance to contemplate what 1993 might hold for the EC. The Community's corridors echo with the language of the end of an era: nobody knows what the next phase will be. This year has been bad enough to show that the grand designs of mice, men and European commissioners can indeed go awry: a year flagged with festivals and fireworks as an *annus mirabilis* turned into an *annus horribilis*. John Major and his colleagues are in Edinburgh badly in need of what marketing men call a relaunch.

But even if ingenious draughtsmen can cook up compromises to smother the Edinburgh agenda's contentious items in verbal fudge, the EC still faces a profound and unprecedented crisis of identity which will be unresolved whatever the summit's outcome. The malaise goes deeper than the rows over Denmark's special status or M Delors' budget. Once, the Community's leaders could proclaim a federal future, confident that such a vision would take time and that voters would not object. The traumas of 1992, from the rejection of Maastricht in Denmark, through the nail-biting finish of the French referendum, to the chaos in the currency markets, have robbed them of that certainty.



word "superpower", this two men sketched a vision of the continent as a giant political unit, cohesive enough to act as a force in the world.

Whatever may eventually emerge from the dreary struggle over ratifying the treaty, Europe is not a superpower, or even an infant version of one. That dream has been destroyed by a combination of economic misery and the contradictions which have been inherent in the EC from the start but which are only now cracking its structure. No leader in the EC has the clout to repeat Herr Kohl and Mitterrand's call. M Mitterrand presides over a powerful economy but political chaos in a state which has lost its way in Europe. Herr Kohl is mired in Germany's violence. M Delors is yesterday's man. Mr Major can only win Maastricht votes in the Commons by making concessions to Eurosceptics and undermining his credibility with his EC partners. The root of this mistrust of elected politicians is the misery of recession.

But Europe's voters have noticed something else: a gap between rhetoric and reality. As the EC moved from a nucleus of six to an extended family of 12 nations, its ambitions expanded. No longer content merely to ensure peace between Germany and its neighbours, advocates of a federation began to speak of Europe integrating to wield clout equivalent to that of America, Japan or the old Soviet Union. Few noticed

that these objectives might come into conflict, or that the EC's slow but sure economic integration did not guarantee equally quick progress to disciplined political decisions.

Images of emaciated prisoners and crumpled heaps of snipers' victims in Bosnia render the intricate debates over Maastricht irrelevant. The treaty, people have sensed, is fun for constitutional mechanics who like tinkering with fine print. No machinery, however sophisticated, will stop the killing in Bosnia today or in Kosovo tomorrow unless Europeans want to stop it. Many federalists have concluded that Europe's idealism can only be rekindled inside a hard core of five: France, Germany and the Benelux. (But after Germany forced its EC partners to recognise Croatia, thus helping to light the fire in Bosnia, even fervent purists dropped talk of a shrunken political union which might not contain German power.) The hard-core five could form a monetary union, but will not do so unless France decides to join what will be a German mark zone. There are few signs that French politicians are ready for that surrender.

The attractions of a fast-track group of countries accelerating away from the mendicant Mediterranean and sullen laggards like Britain and Denmark are more powerful for the dreamers of Brussels than for elected politicians. For the vanguard of a two-speed Europe can only go forward by going backward into the past. The founder-members of the EC, minus Italy, could make a bold move towards closer integration but only by returning to the old emphasis on economics.

A monetary union based on the Bundesbank will do little for the freezing orphans of Sarajevo. But Britain has no alternative strategy to offer. "The old idea of steadily increasing integration is bust," a senior British figure said this week. Gloating over broken federal dreams may be fun in gilded embassy dining rooms, but it is no agenda for Europe's future.

Lord Mackenzie Stuart and Nicholas Ridley, page 18
Leading article and letters, page 19



Kohl: mired in German right-wing violence

Bonn urges joint refugee policy

FROM ANATOL LIEVIN IN BONN

GERMANY'S senior European commissioner, Martin Bangemann, said yesterday that new German rules on political asylum could open the way for a common European approach to refugees and asylum seekers. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, is to raise the question with other European leaders at the Edinburgh summit tomorrow but German officials believe that progress is likely to be slow.

Herr Bangemann said that the compromise on tightening the asylum clause of the constitution, expected to be passed into law in January, would bring Germany into line with the harsher policies of the rest of Europe. This will enable Bonn quickly to ratify the 1990 Dublin Convention on asylum, and the EC agreement on how to implement the Schengen accord on the removal of frontier controls within the EC.

The commissioner called for the EC to develop a political strategy to cope with immigration, and urged Germany to bring forward proposals of its own, rather than leaving this to Brussels. He called on EC countries to join Germany in giving a special status to war refugees, separate from the

categories for asylum-seekers or immigrants.

German officials are sceptical over the possibility of rapid progress, given the attitude of other European countries. They say that German appeals for the burdens of taking refugees and asylum-seekers to be fairly shared have met no response. There is particular bitterness against London after the British refusal to take more than a relatively small number of Bosnian refugees. Germany has taken in more than 250,000 Bosnians — more than the rest of Europe put together — as well as almost 70 per cent of all Europe's asylum seekers. The chairman of Germany's Association of Local Councils, Hans-Gottfried Bernath, said yesterday that if Germany's new rules reduced the number of asylum seekers by 60 per cent, they would save the councils about DM5 billion (£2 billion) a year in accommodation and social welfare.

Bonn is urging other countries to fulfil their promises to take in prisoners freed from Serbian camps. Germany has accepted 1,000 of these, 151 of whom arrived here yesterday from Switzerland. Most have relatives in Germany.



Little Denmark looms large in EC's search for a Maastricht solution

BY GEORGE BROCK AND JAMES LANDALE

THE European Community leaders who assembled in Edinburgh last night begin their discussions today at the Palace of Holyroodhouse by tackling the toughest item on their agenda: Denmark. The outcome of the morning's debate will help or hinder the rest of the negotiations at the summit.

The Danes narrowly rejected the Maastricht treaty on economic and political union last June. Since then the Community has wrestled with the dilemma of qualifying Danish participation in the treaty while avoiding any renegotiation or re-ratification by countries which have already approved it.

Britain's attempts to find a middle ground have not yet received enough support from Danish opposition parties nor wholehearted endorsement from EC govern-

ments. The hard logic of the treaty's text suggests that the summiters will work out a deal.

10am: The morning session begins when Egon Klesch, president of the European Parliament, gives his opening speech. Then Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, presents a progress report on the single market followed by the main discussion on the new British proposal for the Danish ratification of the treaty. The Commission and the British presidency then reports on how to implement the principles of subsidiarity and transparency.

Finance ministers will discuss the general economic situation in the EC and report on the workings of the European Monetary System. 1pm: At lunch at Edinburgh Castle, John Major,

the prime minister, leads a discussion on the Community's economic prospects.

3pm: The afternoon session kicks off with a discussion of the EC budget for the rest of the 1990s. The air will be thick with acrimony and numbers but settlement is likely by Saturday night. The Commission will then report on EC relations with central and eastern European countries, including entry negotiations with European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries.

10pm: EC leaders attend dinner on royal yacht Britannia with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Foreign ministers dine separately to discuss former Yugoslavia.

10am tomorrow: Formally, the last session will be devoted to deciding whether or not to admit countries such as Austria, Sweden, Finland

and Norway to the EC can start early next year. Progress on "enlargement" will depend entirely on the state of play over Denmark and the budget. Mr Major must also broker a solution to the deadlock provoked by Germany's demand for 18 new seats in the European parliament after unification, which has so far been blocked by France. Immigration, the situation in former Yugoslavia and possible sites for EC institutions and agencies will be discussed.

12 noon: The closing press conference is officially scheduled for midday but the summit is likely to overrun. Any leader can raise any subject they choose: expect to hear mention of the Gatt world trade talks, the imminent completion of the single market, immigration and Macedonia.

Major's budget conflict

Continued from page 1
opening session of the summit, Mr Major had distributed compromise proposals aimed at allowing Denmark to ratify the Maastricht treaty. Yesterday he warned his fellow leaders that they must come up with a confidence-building deal to give the Danes a credible chance of winning a second referendum next year.

But he rejected the French president's warning that the rest of the Community could push ahead without Denmark and Britain if they failed to ratify the treaty. "It is a Community of twelve," he said. "It is going to be a Community of twelve, not of ten, nine or eight."

Mr Major used a series of pre-summit interviews to underline his determination not to leave the Danes behind and his belief that the summit should try to ease Denmark's path. "We have got to get an agreement sufficiently good for them to go back and win a referendum," he said.

But he also made plain that he would resist calls from other leaders, including M Mitterrand, to bring forward the Maastricht ratification process in Britain. They want him to promise to deliver the British endorsement of the treaty by the summer. Mr Major promised only that it would go through in the present session of Parliament which is expected to end in October.

Denmark and future financing are the two most difficult issues on today's agenda and Mr Major said last night that if the EC could reach agreement on those, it was likely to reach agreement on subsidiarity, economic growth packages and on more openness in Community decision taking.

British officials admitted last night that there were still big differences on key issues and in all his interviews yesterday, Mr Major went out of his way to emphasise the magnitude of the difficulties facing him. He said: "No-one can be certain we will get an agreement. There is an old English saying that you can take a horse to water but you cannot make it drink. We must hope it drinks."

Nicholas Ridley, page 18
Diary, page 18
Leading article and letters, page 19

Macedonia

For 4,000 years* steeped in the history of Greece

Aristotle, the tutor of Alexander the Great, was born in Stagira in Macedonia in 384 BC. Together with Plato, he is regarded as one of the greatest philosophers the world has known. Aristotle was a true academic, concerned with Physics, Astronomy, Rhetoric, Literature, Political Science and History. His teachings laid the foundation for modern scientific thought.

Alexander was born in 356 BC in Pella, Macedonia, established by his father Philip II, as the centre of Hellenism. Nurtured on the thoughts of his tutor, Aristotle, he rose to fame as a brilliant military leader. He influenced the course of history, rightfully earning his title as Alexander the Great. In 335 BC he became Commander in Chief of all the Greeks. By the time of his death in 323 BC he had created an enormous empire, stretching from the shores of the Adriatic to India, and from the Caucasus Mountains to Egypt. He spread the Greek spirit far and wide among nations who worshipped him as a god.

This statue of Aphrodite came to light during archaeological digs at the ancient sacred city of Dion. Dion, at the foot of Mt Olympus, was the most important spiritual site for the Northern Greeks, playing the same role in their lives as that of the oracle at Delphi.

St Dimitrios, Patron of the city of Thessaloniki, was martyred in 305 AD defending Christianity. He is regarded as the Patron Saint of Thessaloniki and its saviour during difficult moments.

Thessaloniki, the heart of Macedonia, is a modern city with 1,000,000 inhabitants. It is strategically located at the crossroads of Europe with Asia. Having spread the Word at Philippi, the Apostle Paul continued his teachings in Thessaloniki. Its important monuments from antiquity and byzantium up to the present, provide testimony to the role that the city has played as the second capital of Hellenism.

This 16 pointed star of Vergina was uncovered during the archaeological excavations at Vergina. This symbol of the Greek Macedonian Dynasty decorated the golden tomb of Philip II. The Star of Vergina, extracted from the soil of Macedonia, has since become the symbol of Hellenism.

Come to Greece and visit Macedonia

4,000 years* Past-Mycenaean ceramic relief found in Austria and Mycenaean awards found in Greece date back 4,000 years, evidence of Macedonia's role in the cradle of Greek history. Even in mythology Macedonia, mythical founder of the Macedonian race, is the son of Aristotle (son of the world). Throughout the years Macedonia contributed to the formation of knowledge of the Ancient Greeks. In the 5th century BC Democritus, father of Atomic Theory, lived and worked in Pella.

St Dimitrios, Patron of the city of Thessaloniki, was martyred in 305 AD defending Christianity. He is regarded as the Patron Saint of Thessaloniki and its saviour during difficult moments.

GREECE
Chosen by the Gods

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE GREEK NATIONAL TOURIST ORGANIZATION, 2, AMERICK ST., GR - 105 64 ATHENS, GREECE, TEL. (201) 322.3111 322.3704

A million protest in Athens

By CHRIS ELIOT AND TIM JUDAH

GREEKS thronged central Athens yesterday to demand that the European Community study its history and not recognise the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia (Skopje) as independent under that name.

The crowd, estimated at a million, was demonstrating on the eve of today's opening of the EC summit in Edinburgh which is expected to discuss the issue that has stirred passions in Greece more fiercely than any since the Italian invasion through Macedonia in 1940.

Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, will be making a last attempt at the summit to persuade his 11 counterparts to confirm the decision of the Lisbon summit in June excluding recognition of the land-locked republic under a name implying territorial claims on the Greek province of Macedonia.

Church bells pealed as the mostly young demonstrators marched through Athens carrying placards and shouting: "Hands off Macedonia" and "Macedonia has been Greek for the past 3,000 years." One placard, reflecting the widespread fear that recognition could provoke a new Balkan war, read: "Skopje - Bulgaria - Turkey - war."

Crowds lining the streets cheered when a young man dressed as Alexander the Great rode a white stallion along the route of the march, the biggest in the Greek capital. Protesters, among them hundreds of Greek Macedonians in their national costume, travelled to Athens by road, rail and air. Schools, banks and government offices were closed to enable students and workers to participate. Traffic was brought to a standstill.

Leonidas Kouris, the mayor of Athens, told the rally: "Today Europe and the entire world is listening to the voice of unity, truth and justice." A resolution adopted by the rally is to be delivered this morning to leaders attending the Edinburgh summit.

Reformists and Moscow old guard take to streets

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

AS DARKNESS fell over St Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin last night, representatives of two utterly different ideas of Russia gathered on the hill that slopes down to the river, and stared at one another in hatred.

On one side, under a sea of red flags, were the contorted faces of the hardest of hard-core communists: crotchety veterans, hot-headed trade unionists, local bureaucrats furious at losing that little, brief authority in which the old system had dressed them.

"Soyuzetsy Soyuz, Soyuzetsy Soyuz," they chanted, over and over again, as though the name of their dead Soviet state was a totem whose repetition would bring back the shops full of cheap, fatty sausages, the joyful pioneer camps, the dreadful prison camps, and all the good and bad things of the old regime.

Less than 100 yards away, separated by dozens of fur-hatted policemen whose peasant faces were at once bored and suspicious, were President Yeltsin's supporters. There were barely 2,000 of them, with their neat, sensible placards proclaiming: "We support the president." "We support the referendum". Other placards announced that

Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary chairman whose name they used to chant, was now a "Judas" because of his apparent support for the conservatives during the Congress of People's Deputies.

There was still a hint, perhaps for the first time this winter, of the extraordinary breadth and unwavering, almost desperate, loyalty of the coalition that Mr Yeltsin is capable of assembling when he sounds the rallying cry.

Mr Yeltsin's foot soldiers, the people who brought communism down by demonstrating in their hundreds of thousands on countless, freezing Sunday afternoons, were the "middle class in waiting" — the well-educated, well-read Muscovites who associated the old Soviet system with public life and private frustration.

And last night at least a few could be heard chanting: "Yeltsin, Yeltsin". They had weary, intelligent faces, plainly struggling to survive in the new Russian free-for-all, but still clear enough about those aspects of the past to which they would never agree to return.

The "democratic" orators who came to warm up the crowd were a thin selection compared with the glorious,



Comrades in arms: Russian militiamen chat in front of a communist flag during an anti-Yeltsin demonstration outside the Kremlin yesterday. President Yeltsin has called for a national referendum to abolish the Congress

colourful gallery of yesteryear, when Mr Yeltsin himself and Andrei Sakharov pioneered the idea of public meetings.

Many of the old pro-Yeltsin agitators seem to have disappeared from the political scene or switched their loyalties to some variety of Russian chauvinism. But as always, last night's speakers included the indefatigable Father Gleb

Yakunin, in priest's robes and woolly hat, and Pyotr Filopov, the grey-bearded economist, who delivered an earnest homily on the market which sounded far too sensible for a public meeting.

The crowd was flanked, and policed, by dozens of swarthy, moustachioed Cossacks, in various exotic uniforms, who had arrived from southern

Russia to defend their president, physically if need be, from his enemies. And in the background, the ubiquitous figures of Mikhail Schneider and Vladimir Boxer, the discreet masterminds of the pro-Yeltsin street movement, who are plainly thrilled to be back on the warpath again.

□ Congress vote: The Congress of People's Deputies

voted in closed session to take control of the parliamentary guards away from the interior ministry. The guards will now come under the control of the Supreme Soviet "until an appropriate law is passed". In October, Mr Yeltsin issued a decree banning any armed formation that was not controlled by himself or the interior ministry. (Reuters)

CONGRESS COMMENTARY

Hardliners reject Yeltsin's call for referendum

BY ANNE MCELVOY

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's nine days of strife with the Congress of People's Deputies ended yesterday with a dramatic call to his countrymen to decide the fate of his embattled government and its reforms.

It is a call to political arms that is likely to spell the end for one or the other of the opponents and unleashes a dangerous power battle at a time when the country's stability is weakened by inflation and social discord.

Mr Yeltsin's stirring speech made clear that he sees no chance of patching together a compromise with the legislature, and that the only hope for a continuation of reforms lies with an offensive against the forces of conservatism, ranging from the centre-right Civic Union to nationalist and communist extremists, against him.

The move to call a referendum, a previously unknown phenomenon in a country which has never before referred decisions on its fate to the people, was an option Mr Yeltsin had toyed with for some time, but which aides had told him risked provoking civil discord or even defeat.

A furious Mr Yeltsin made the decision on Wednesday night without consulting the government after Congress had failed to elect Yegor Gaidar, the architect of economic reform, prime minister despite substantial concessions from the reformers. "The president's decision was unexpected," Mr Gaidar said. "He took it by himself. I think it is a very responsible but a risky step."

In a short, angry speech to an assembly stunned into rare silence, Mr Yeltsin denounced Congress with invective pent up over days of sitting in symbolic dominance of the proceedings, helplessly watching one government resolution after another voted down. It culminated in the assembly taking his offer of parliamentary control of four key ministries by failing to deliver the endorsement of Mr Gaidar, his economic guru.

"I expected understanding — in reply there was glum silence or aggressive dissatisfaction," he said. "The walls of this hall have blushed from endless insults and foul language, from hatred and rudeness... from the fifth that fills Congress due to the morbid ambitions of bankrupt politicians."

The ferocity of Mr Yeltsin's attack which included a denunciation of Russian Khasbulatov, the manipulative Congress chairman, makes it difficult to see how any compromise can be reached, despite the appeals of the constitutional court that both sides should heal the rift before a constitutional conflict widens into a violent one. The Yeltsin camp has moved

quickly to take the battle to the streets with a mass demonstration planned on Red Square today. Mr Yeltsin is going for the opposition's jugular in style.

The hardliners rejected the idea of a referendum that would risk affecting their swift obsolescence, and suggested fresh elections to the presidency and Congress instead. Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president, said he intended to fight to save Congress, and accused Mr Yeltsin of provoking destabilisation by his attack on the legislature.

Mr Yeltsin clearly accepted this risk when he took on the legislature and believes that despite the difficulties of reform, he can pull the public behind him when the crunch comes. The open split in the ranks of power increases the danger of military involvement at a time when many army men are dissatisfied with their standard of living and the decline in Russia's power.

While Pavel Grachev, the defence minister and considered a hardliner, denied that the army would become involved, his statement that "we are on the side of the law and the constitution" was far from being a convincing oath of allegiance to Mr Yeltsin.



Rutskoi vows to save Congress

since Congress is also appealing to its constitutionally anchored role in its fight for survival.

In a rare flurry of self-criticism, Mr Yeltsin damned his attempts to appease Congress with compromises and deals as "a waste of time" and admitted that some concessions were unjustifiable.

Many of his supporters were dissatisfied with his performance, feeling that he had allowed the opposition to make the running. With either presence or a well-placed leak, the pro-government *Moskovsky Komsomets* asked in yesterday's edition: "Yeltsin's behaviour at Congress has been much too peaceful, passive and listless. Where is the unpredictability when we need it?"

Dushanbe fighting intensifies

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

FIGHTING broke out in Dushanbe, the Tajikistan capital, yesterday with tanks and heavy weapons being used in the streets, a national security committee official said.

"We do not know who is fighting whom, but there is heavy fighting going on all around us," the official said. Another security official said the situation was normal.

Aid workers in Tashkent, the capital of neighbouring Uzbekistan, said they had heard that Dushanbe had been taken by forces loyal to Rakhmon Nabiyev, the former communist leader who was ousted as president in September. No confirmation was available.

Earlier reports from witnesses said machinegun fire echoed through the city centre after a night of sporadic shooting. One witness at the central Tajikistan hotel said that people were running away from the hotel. "There's a helicopter gunship flying just above," he said. Bursts of gunfire could be heard.

Hundreds of people have been killed in fighting between Islamic forces defending the city and former communists in the former Soviet republic since Mr Nabiyev was ousted. Russian armed forces are guarding key buildings. General Vitali Gritsan, a Russian commander, said fighting was going on in many parts of Dushanbe.

Tailor-made phone.

Did you know that most mobile phones are smaller, neater and considerably more compact these days?

Well, here's another surprise.

Cellnet have cut the cost of mobile communication by up to 40%.

By introducing our Lifetime™ service, we have lowered connection charges, lowered monthly subscriptions and have tailor-made tariffs for domestic use.

Gone are the days when a 'mobile' was just for business users.

By having a package tailor-made for you, you need never be out of touch with friends and loved ones.

If you're interested, you'll need to talk to one of our approved Service Providers.

Take BT Mobile Communications, for example.



(That's their ad on the opposite page.) You'll be pleasantly surprised by what they're offering.

So over you go and have a read.



The nearest phone.

Telecom Securities Cellular Radio Limited.

Revolutionary leader takes his case to the workers

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's Zil roared through the gates of the Lenin Komsomol car factory in southern Moscow yesterday afternoon to the amazement of the afternoon shift. Most of the 10,000 employees were unaware of the constitutional crisis brewing a few miles away in the Kremlin.

The Russian leader had sped from delivering his "one or Congress" ultimatum to the nearest, biggest factory floor, with a heavy police and security presence in pursuit.

In a scene which could have come from Eisenstein, cinema's eulogist of the 1917 revolution, workers in blue overalls downed tools and jostled their way along the giant shop floor to hear his message. It was as if a piece of Russian history had walked into their lives. Bury welders pushed young women in headscarves to the front and the whisper, "Can you see him? Does he look all right?" spread through the crowd.

If there were remaining doubts that here was a politician who relished a power struggle, they were dispelled

by the fire in Mr Yeltsin's eyes and his confident waves on a rapid march about addressing the workers who had been unable to leave their posts.

This was the great inspirer, rallying support against a hated foe. It was the Yeltsin who took on the Communist party and won — and has every intention of similarly dispatching the Congress. His sonorous bass easily conquering the thrumming echo of the machinery, Mr Yeltsin appealed to his listeners to collect signatures demanding a referendum on who runs the country.

"I have to address the people directly because the situation at Congress was fraught with danger for reform," he said, and urged the workers: "Take the lead in staying calm and thinking carefully. This must not turn into a civil war."

Trailed by a vast posse, he strode the ramps to cries of "Good luck Boris Nikolayevich," and "Were behind you." The factory, which makes Moskvich saloon cars, boasts better conditions than at most plants in the decrepit industrial belt. Wages are

comparatively high. An assembly-line worker earns 15,000 roubles (£23) a month plus incentives, and most of its workers are well-disposed to radical reform.

But many speakers invited onto the platform beside Mr Yeltsin hinted at grievances he will hear less politely from more troubled enterprises. "Commercial freedom does not mean anything to me," one welder said. "Your reforms have made the mafia very rich but what does the ordinary worker have from them? We need more control over the reform process." Mr Yeltsin, who had been listening attentively and joining in the laughter at quips and sly criticisms, smiled.

"We must be able to see a change in our standard of living. Then we'll support you," one woman cried. "You must be patient," replied Mr Yeltsin. "You don't want a return to the old ways with apparatchiks running your factory, do you?" The crowd cheered him and produced a pro-government resolution calling on other workforces to give the reforms more time.

Islam
am in
arms

French kill two Somalis at Mogadishu roadblock

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

AS FRENCH troops reported to have killed two Somalis in Mogadishu yesterday, warring clans in rural areas of the country were told by America that their fighting would not prevent the rapid expansion of Operation Restore Hope to the country's war and famine-ravaged interior. The Pentagon's warning was issued as Lieutenant General Robert Johnston, the field commander of the US-led armed relief effort in Somalia, arrived in the capital.

Although acknowledging that the fighting between clans in outlying cities and areas was a problem, Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, said on his way to the Nato defence ministers' meeting in Brussels that the clashes presented no immediate threat to US forces pouring into the country to guarantee that aid gets through. He forecast that, as American troops pushed out from Mogadishu, gunbattles between the clans would subside.

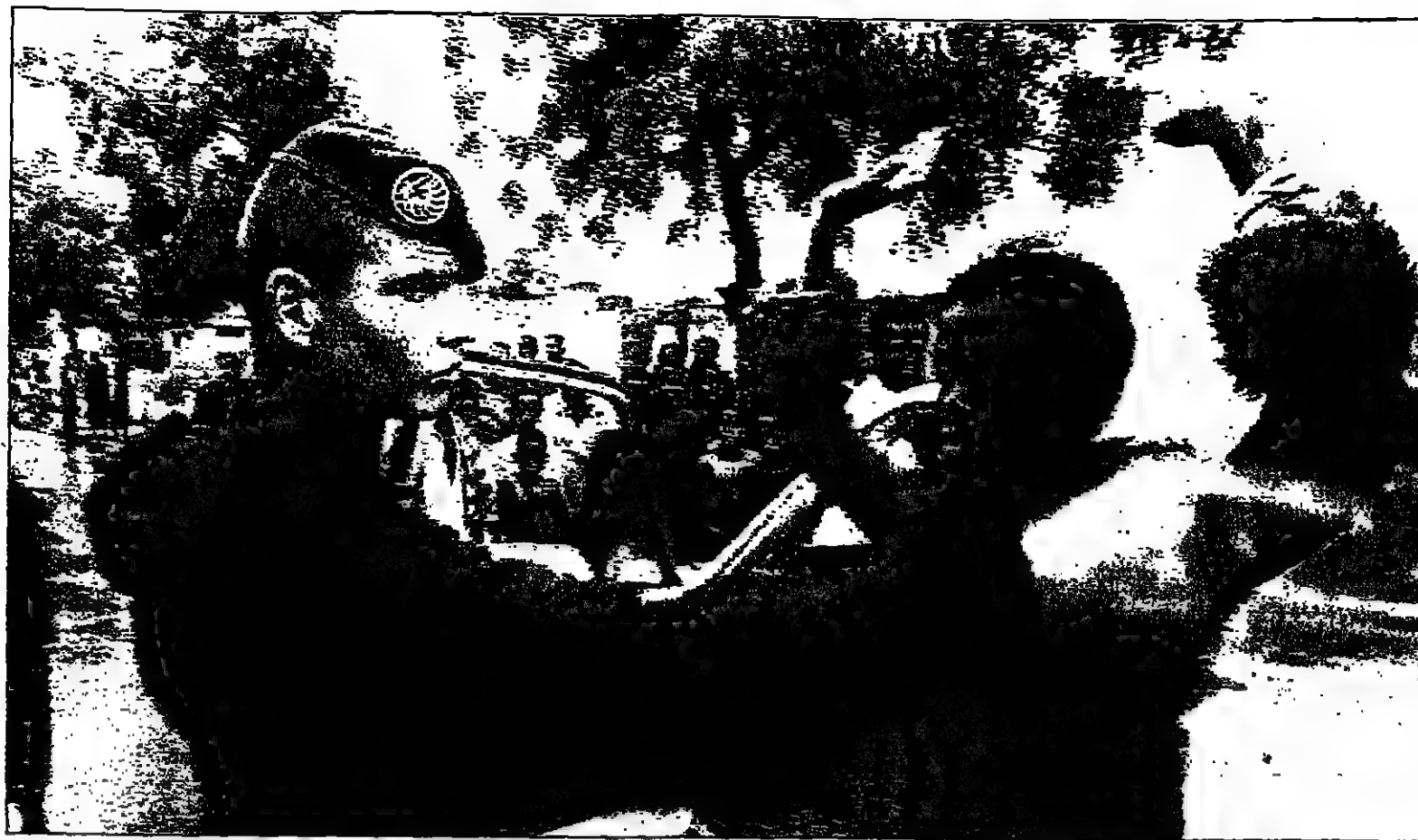
A US embassy official in Nairobi could not confirm that a meeting had been arranged at the embassy in Mogadishu between President Ali Mahdi Muhammad and his rival, General Muhammad Farrah Aidid.

As detachments from the First Marine Expeditionary Force, which will form the backbone of Operation Restore Hope, began to arrive in Mogadishu, signs appeared that not all the inhabitants are pleased to see the foreign troops.

The two Somalis were killed when French legionnaires reportedly opened fire on a lorry near a checkpoint in central Mogadishu. Six Somalis were injured. "They fired on the legionnaires and the legionnaires responded," Major Gerard Massot said. "The vehicle continued careering along the road and crashed into a wall."

The incident was the most serious since American and French troops arrived in Mogadishu on Wednesday morning. French troops at a checkpoint also shot at a man who raised a gun towards them on Wednesday night, but nobody was injured. Also on Wednesday night, gunfire was reported near the compound of the US embassy, now occupied by marines. Late on Wednesday night, American helicopters flying over the city were fired at.

Fighting between feuding warlords has fallen off around Mogadishu, according to the Pentagon. However an in-



Getting tough: a French legionnaire orders a Somali out of his car in a search for weapons at a checkpoint between Mogadishu and the airport yesterday. It was at a similar checkpoint that two Somalis were reported to have been killed and six injured

crease in fighting between armed factions has been detected in the north, west and south of the country.

Relief workers reported that large convoys of "technicals", the Mad Max-type armed vehicles favoured by Somali gunmen, were seen leaving the capital and Baidoa, to the west, and heading for rural areas along the border with Ethiopia.

Lieutenant General Martin Brandtner, the director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on Wednesday night that the greatest danger

for US troops probably would come from young Somali gunmen who had weapons but no allegiance to any of the main clan leaders who have been co-operating with the US military intervention. "We must understand that we're dealing with an extremely dangerous situation," he said. "We have a lack of any form of civil control. The risk here is from individuals moving about who are armed, and who are not necessarily of sound judgment, so there is an enormous potential for any type of event to occur."

The original plan for the US marines to open a corridor to Baidoa, where there is a refugee camp and an airstrip, may be changed. The first objective may be to secure the airstrip at Bale Dogle before moving into Baidoa. Lt Gen Brandtner said on Wednesday that this possible planning alteration had nothing to do with reports of fierce fighting in Baidoa in the past few days but was based on the comparative quality of the two airstrips.

Although marines have confiscated some weapons found

in vehicles at checkpoints, the Pentagon has not decided if it should mount a potentially explosive general effort to disarm the Somali clans.

American officials also seem perplexed about what powers US troops should assume they have over Somalis. The troops can fire at those who show "hostile intent", but it was unclear yesterday whether or not they can arrest and hold them. At a news conference in Mogadishu, Robert Oakley, the US ambassador, said it was a "tough call", adding: "At the moment the US com-

mission does not include establishing ourselves as a police force. And I'm not quite sure on what legal grounds we can arrest Somali citizens."

Bush administration officials also seemed to contradict themselves over how long US forces would need to stay in Somalia. Mr Cheney said on Wednesday that they could possibly start withdrawing by the end of January. But yesterday, Herman Cohen, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, talked in terms of US forces remaining in the country for up to a year.

Vanunu questions rebuffed

By MICHAEL BINTON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, visiting Britain, yesterday turned aside questions about Mordechai Vanunu, the imprisoned Israeli nuclear scientist, saying outsiders had no right to pass judgment on a person who did what he did for money.

"He is a citizen of Israel, not Britain," Mr Rabin said. He said Israel had never intervened in a foreign court decision when a Jewish citizen had broken the law. Vanunu was kidnapped by Israeli agents in Rome after talking to *The Sunday Times* while in Britain in 1986, and imprisoned for 18 years for revealing nuclear secrets.

On the peace process, Mr Rabin said agreement between Israel and one Arab party would be achieved next year. "I am not pessimistic," he said. On Wednesday he said the West had only about three years to curb Iranian-backed Islamic fundamentalism which was spreading throughout the Middle East and was trying to wreck the peace talks through the Palestinian Hamas movement.

Nabatiyeh: A bomb exploded east of Nabatiyeh on the edge of Israel's self-declared security zone in Lebanon yesterday, wounding four members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army. The Syrian-backed Amal movement claimed responsibility. Israel retaliated, shelling a ridge used by pro-Iranian Hezbollah guerrillas. Two boys were injured. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge rules sperm be destroyed

Los Angeles: A judge ruled that a man could not will his sperm to his girlfriend and ordered that it be destroyed. The will of William Kane, a millionaire lawyer who committed suicide, is being contested by his children.

Judge Edward Ross stayed his order to allow an appeal and said: "We're forging new frontiers because science has run ahead of common law. We've got to have some appellate decision."

Deborah Hecht, Kane's girlfriend, wept and said: "I really want his baby." (Reuters)

Help sought

Oslo: Rigoberto Menchu, the Guatemalan Indian leader, above, accepting the 1992 Nobel peace prize, called for international help to end his country's 30-year guerrilla war and eradicate human rights abuses. Peace talks have been deadlocked for months. Ms Menchu, 33, urged greater efforts to stamp out racism and discrimination against all indigenous peoples. (Reuters)

Test for Husain

Cairo: King Husain of Jordan, piloting his own plane, left Amman for medical tests in the United States to determine whether he has been cured of cancer after having an operation there in August.

Rioters halted

Sanaa: Rioting in Yemen spread to the capital where police fired shots in the air to stop demonstrators reaching the presidential palace. The trouble flared in Taiz in protests over price rises. (Reuters)

Militia retreats

Kabul: Former communist militia withdrew from some positions in Kabul and a senior commander said negotiations were under way, but more government troops and tanks were deployed. (Reuters)

Rescuers die

La Paz: At least ten relief workers, trying to reach the Bolivian mining town of Lipi where 100 people were buried in a mudslide, were killed when their bus plunged off a cliff. (AP)

Imports ban

Baghdad: Iraqis thronged the capital before a deadline to remove 146 imported goods from shops, such as electrical goods and beer. The ban is aimed at concentrating hard currency reserves on essential imports. (Reuters)

Last stand

Grand Junction: A Colorado cowboy, who was in a wheelchair for six years after being paralysed, got his dying wish. Jimmy Dale Struble, 49, was buried standing up, with his boots on. (AP)

Hong Kong talks on transition stall

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN'S relations with China soured still further yesterday, when high-level negotiations over Hong Kong's transition to Chinese rule broke up without an agreed final statement for the first time in seven years.

After three days of acrimonious talks here, diplomats complained that there had been no progress on any of the questions outstanding in the final years of British colonial rule.

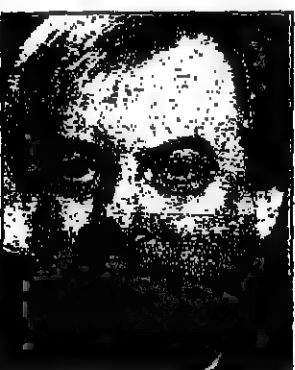
The Chinese delegation accused Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, of undermining the basis for co-operation with his proposal for democratic reforms which China rejects as a breach of agreements with Britain. Guo Fengmin, leader of the Chinese team on the Sino-British joint liaison group, said Mr Patten must withdraw his plans for broadening the franchise for Hong Kong's partly elected legislature before co-operation and negotiation

could be reviewed. Anthony Galsworthy, his British opposite number, called on China to discuss Mr Patten's proposals "without preconditions".

Despite the deadlock, China did not stage a walkout as many Hong Kong officials had feared, and left the door open for further talks on other issues. Mr Guo said there was no point in negotiating with Britain if it was going to scrap its previous agreements.

He issued a warning that if the British government refused to return to the pace of democratic development set out in the basic law, Hong Kong's post-1997 constitution, China would have to "start all over again" when it took control. He did not elaborate but it is believed that China would reverse Mr Patten's reforms and hold new elections in 1997 instead of letting the pre-handover legislature remain in office until 1999.

Clinton rebuffed: A Chinese official last night rejected Bill Clinton's offer of a possible American role in easing the Sino-British controversy over Hong Kong, describing the president-elect's comments as inappropriate. Zheng Guoxiong, a deputy director of Xinhua news agency, China's de facto embassy in the colony, said: "The Hong Kong issue is something between China and Britain before June 30 1997 and it will be the Chinese government's internal affair after 1997." (Reuters)



Patten: must withdraw franchise plans

Leading article, page 19

Delhi bans Muslim and Hindu groups

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian government last night banned three extremist Hindu organisations and two hardline Muslim groups in an increasingly tough response to religious violence following the destruction of the Ayodhya mosque last Sunday.

The government named the banned Hindu organisations as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal. The Muslim groups declared illegal are the Jamaat-Islami and the Islamic Swayamsevak.

As violence continued across India the death toll rose to well over 800. Most victims are Muslims. There are fears of more trouble today after Friday prayers. The death toll in communal clashes in Bangladesh rose to 11 yesterday as thousands of militant Muslims set fire to Hindu-owned property.

P. V. Narasimha Rao, the

Indian prime minister, all but admitted to Eyewitness video news organisation yesterday that he was the victim of an orchestrated campaign of deception by Hindu hardliners in the weeks before the destruction of the mosque.

He said he felt betrayed after he had received assurances from the state government of Uttar Pradesh that the mosque would be protected. He had ordered 192 companies of paramilitary forces - about 12,000 men - to be on standby but the state government refused to deploy them.

According to Mr Rao, a magistrate accompanying the forces refused permission to let them enter the city and told them to return to barracks. If Mr Rao's account is correct, it confirms suspicions that the attack was planned at a high level within the Uttar Pradesh government, run by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Tailor-made price.

These days, mobile phones are neater and more compact than ever before.

Better still, they are now within the reach of everyone, price wise.

Thanks to Cellnet's new lower prices, we can cut the cost of running a mobile by up to 40%.

Every mobile in BT's extensive range can now be connected to the new low cost Lifetime package.

For as little as £23.50 (inc. VAT), we can connect you to the Cellnet network.

Monthly line rental subscription is now only £17.50 (including VAT with direct debit).

And off-peak call charges are just 24p per minute including VAT.

These new charges represent an annual saving against the standard tariffs of up to £165 including VAT.

Mobile phone prices have never

been more affordable and we even have a special introductory offer.

So, if you're interested in a mobile phone and would like to know more please call us free on 0800 222 657 or call into your local BT shop.

BT

No. 1 in Mobile Communications

ITALIA
VISA

Tiny Rowland, the controversial head of Lonrho, has said he is to stand down and sell half his stake. But, Tom Bower asks, could he have a secret agenda?

Just a Tiny shadow of doubt

The rumours of "Tiny" Rowland's last stand began to spread at the beginning of the week. Speaking to a disgruntled Lonrho shareholder, the ubiquitous Paul Spicer, Lonrho's spokesman, related in unusually unguarded terms: "Tiny's had a terrible attack of asthma and says he's sick of Lonrho. He says he wants to get out."

The gossip spread fast. Few Rowland watchers could believe that the rebel tycoon who, over 30 years, has transformed a £1 million unprofitable ranching and mining company in Rhodesia into a £3 billion international conglomerate, was doing other than planning another rise. But Wednesday's announcement that Mr Rowland intends to sell half his stake to Dieter Bock, a German property developer, seemed to confirm the unbelievable: that the 75-year-old chief executive of Britain's most investigated public company was planning to bow out.

Except that it is most unlikely. Behind the headlines is the far more exciting rumour that Mr Rowland is once again pulling a brilliant coup. Just as in the 1970s, when he attracted Kuwaiti oil millions to save Lonrho's beleaguered fortunes, his oozing charm has lured Herr Bock, a German with possibly more money than sense, to invest in a company built upon secrets and sand which only Mr Rowland really knows how to control and how to save.

Herr Bock should be careful. Mr Rowland, as his devoted wife Josie knows, is married to Lonrho and, unlike the Windsors, divorce is inconceivable. But even the best marriages occasionally require an outside liaison to survive.

The last victim of Mr Rowland's lament that he was "tired" and wanted to "hand over to a younger man" was Alan Bond, the Australian businessman. When the Aus-

tralian bought Lonrho shares, Tiny published an analysis of Bond's empire which pushed his erstwhile friend towards bankruptcy. Another of Rowland's former friends turned adversary is Mohamed Fayed, who thought that by paying Lonrho £138 million for a 29.9 per cent stake in House of Fraser he had concluded a straightforward transaction. But Mr Rowland was infuriated by Mr Fayed's unexpected bid for the whole store group. Now Mr Fayed has been pursued in a breathtaking £25 million campaign, translated into many languages. And there are many more victims of Tiny's charm.

The deal with Herr Bock was born of an awful inevitability.

Lonrho's accounts always evoke speculation. Now they are astonishing

Lonrho's precarious finances have been the company's bugbear ever since Mr Rowland took over Lonrho in 1961. Among the memories of those who served as Lonrho directors in the 1960s and 1970s were those of Tiny, sitting in the Cheapside boardroom, cheekily announcing the following year's profits. They watched as he scribbled on the back of an envelope the figures above the line to produce his forecast. Mr Rowland's creative accountancy worked until the recession really started, the cash flow decreased and the value of Lonrho's assets were seriously marked down.

Towards the end of several recent financial years, Lonrho has faced a crisis which Mr Rowland has parried with his quip, "don't worry, something will turn up". This year Herr Bock turned up but Lonrho's deeper problems remain.

Lonrho's accounts have always evoked speculation and some suspicion but this year they are astonishing. Only six months ago, Lonrho, worth only £500 million on the stock exchange, announced total debts of £850 million. Since then the company has sold £500 million of assets but the debts have rise by



Maverick tycoon: Mr Rowland is married to Lonrho and, unlike the Windsors, divorce is inconceivable. But even the best marriages occasionally require an outside liaison

almost £100 million to £947 million. That leaves a lot for Jim Butler, the senior partner at the accountants Peat Marwick, Lonrho's auditor since 1972, to explain.

Like all maverick tycoons, the ingenuity and loyalty of accountants has been critical to the survival of this remarkable buccaneer who has built an empire based upon the admiration and trust of politicians and presidents across Africa and even in the United States. His hubris is in Britain where accounts of his life, part constructed upon myth, part concealment and some distortion have evoked distrust in the City, envy in the Foreign Office and a loathing by Margaret Thatcher and a clutch of successive secretaries of state at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Rowland's quixotic relationship with Britain, its politicians and

institutions, is a reflection of both the strengths and terminable weaknesses of our society. The intriguing conundrum is whether Tiny scorns his adopted country because he has been unfairly treated or whether Britain is right to suspect a ruthless schemer.

He was born in an internment camp in India in 1917, of a German father and Anglo-Dutch mother, and named Roland Fuhrhop. Twenty-one years later he changed his name and tried to forget his background. Educated in Harburg, Mr Rowland spent his last school year, 1935, at a school near Petersfield where he was known as "Fritz Fuhrhop" and suspected of having pro-German sentiments.

This led to his wartime internment on the Isle of Man and a source of resentment. His post-war fortune was confiscated by the Inland Revenue. Like many entre-

preneurs, disillusioned by socialist austerity he emigrated in 1948 to Rhodesia hungry for fame and a new fortune.

At the age of 31, Mr Rowland had learnt that the best deals were earned with the help of politicians. His investment in black Africa when everyone else was selling for a pittance was remarkably astute at the time but proved shortsighted over the long term. Yet many of his deals were dubious and won him resentment or contempt in Salisbury. The very quality which he marshalled to transform Lonrho during the 1960s into a major company, namely, a charming and often energetic disregard for the rules led to Edward Heath's famous condemnation in 1973 that Lonrho was the "unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism".

Mr Rowland was blind to the realities of British political life and

believed that he was also immune to regulation. Those fundamental misunderstandings, concealed beneath his impeccable spoken English and immaculate Savile Row suits, has bedevilled his career ever since.

Mr Rowland believes that many of the British are hypocrites. His exposure of how the trade and industry department failed to regulate the Fayed takeover for House of Fraser prove his point. But it also proves that he will brook no opposition or contradiction. Like all buccaneers, he has a propensity to be a tyrant. But jetting around Africa to broker peace in Mozambique and Sudan, consulting with the State Department and the German foreign ministry, Mr Rowland wants his place in history. His arguments are explained in *The Observer*, purchased by Lonrho in 1981 and used to

reproduce Rowland's case, which is another reason why he will never release the reins at Lonrho.

But the cost of his politicking and obsessive battle against the Fayed was to miss genuine growth in the 1980s. Now he is paying the price. But the board of his beloved company is bereft of the talent it needs or a successor to rescue his creation from its maker's mistakes. Enter Dieter Bock who, without a seat on Lonrho's board, thinks that equipped with his experience in property, he can realise the profits of gold mines in Ghana, waste in Kenya and cattle in Botswana. Now Tiny has bought some more time for his marriage. And then, *Auf Wiedersehen Herr Bock?*

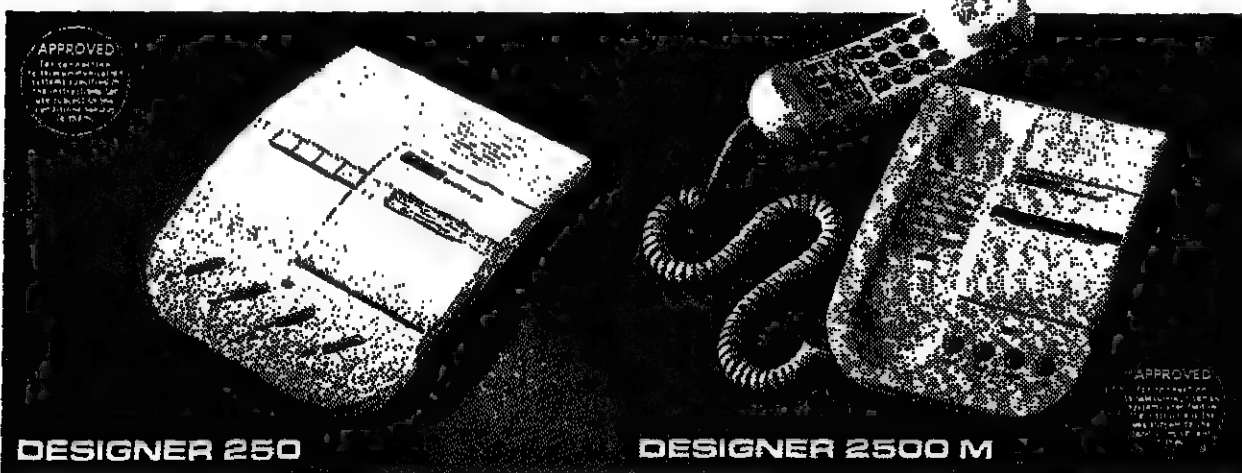
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1992

Tom Bower's biography, *Tiny Rowland, The Rebel Tycoon*, will be published in May 1993.

PROBABLY THE MOST ADVANCED ANSWERING MACHINES IN THE WORLD

FROM ONLY £49.99 OR LESS!

AS SEEN ON TV.



Stylish and well-designed, the Dialatron 250 and 2500M offer you the latest digital answering machine technology and an outstanding list of features - all from just £49.99 without telephone and £69.99 with telephone. Compare them for yourself at the stores listed below and see why they represent such exceptional value.

DIALATRON 250

£49.99

- Day and time of each incoming call automatically recorded - so you're always sure of when each message was received.
- Remote control access from any tone dialling phone.
- Digital outgoing message leaves more space for your incoming messages.
- Micro cassette for incoming messages.
- Call screening and call counter (LED).
- Memo facility for leaving messages for others in your home.

DIALATRON 2500M

£69.99

- Day and time of each incoming call automatically recorded - so you're always sure of when each message was received.
- Remote control access from any tone dialling phone.
- Digital outgoing message leaves more space for your incoming messages.
- Micro cassette for incoming messages.
- Call screening and call counter (LED).
- Memo facility for leaving messages for others in your home.
- Money saving Mercury button for long distance and international calls.
- Ringer on/off facility.
- PABX compatible.

DIALATRON
by
Binatone
No.1 in phones

ALDERS • ED • COMET • HOMEBASE • NORWEB

Binatone Electronics plc, Binatone House, Bedford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA10 1YX. Telephone: 081-903 5211. Fax: 081-903 5521

Black sheep and little brothers

Will Roger Clinton break a long tradition and not be an embarrassment?



He's not heavy: Roger Clinton (right) with his mother, as brother takes the oath as governor

In an emotional television interview recently, Roger Clinton, the 36-year-old half-brother of Bill Clinton, described the president-elect as his "father, best friend, guardian and protector". The next president of the United States may also turn out to be the passport to stardom for the younger Clinton, whose career has been as troubled as his brother's has been smooth.

An aspiring rock musician, Roger Clinton spent most of last week in New York negotiating with record companies and was reported to be on the verge of a lucrative deal with Atlantic Records. Meanwhile, the New York literary agent, Mort Janklow, has been touting a book proposal provisionally entitled *My Life with Big Brother*, at the starting price of about \$300,000 (£197,000). "Everybody and his brother wants to talk to me now," Roger Clinton told the *New York Post*. In fact, everyone wants to talk to Roger Clinton because of his brother.

There is almost no American president in history who has not, at one time or another, suffered acute embarrassment because of the behaviour of his family, and presidential brothers have often been the greatest liabilities of all. So far, Roger Clinton has proved a political asset (Bill Clinton made the suffering he and his brother endured at the hands of an abusive and alcoholic stepfather, Roger's natural father, a central part of his campaign), but cynical observers say that, given his past record, that could easily change.

While the elder Clinton was ascending the heights of politics, Roger was dropping out of college, working the nightclub circuit and then winding up in series of dead-end jobs. In his twenties he developed a chronic cocaine habit and in 1984 he was arrested in a drug sting (authorised by his elder brother, the governor of

Arkansas) and sentenced to two years in prison, of which he served one.

After rehabilitation sessions (some of which were attended by Bill Clinton and their mother, Virginia Kelley), Roger Clinton went back to the fringes of the music business. He now lives in North Hollywood and is employed as a warm-up act for two television sit-coms.

Despite one relapse into his old ways in 1987, Roger Clinton now claims to have kicked his bad habits for good, and he is confident that stardom is near at hand: "I have a lot of God-given charisma," he says.

Most presidential brothers have tended to behave, as Sir John Channon said of Bertie Wooster in P.G. Wodehouse's phrase, more like "sailors in a Marseilles bistro" than anything else.

Billy Carter, President Carter's brother, set a record for bad behaviour while his brother was in the White House that will be hard to equal. Billy's fondness for beer, profanity and racist remarks were a source of deep embarrassment to the president. In the midst of the 1980 election campaign, he accepted \$220,000 from Libya to help improve the country's image in America - a mistake which, President Carter later wrote, "was wrecking havoc with our efforts to deal with everything

else on the political scene".

Billy Carter, who died of cancer in 1982, once referred touchingly to his own status as the family's black sheep: "I've got a mother who joined the Peace Corps at 68, a brother who wants to be president, a sister who is a holy-roller preacher... I'm the only sane one in the family."

Roger Clinton responds angrily to comparisons with Billy: "Why don't they talk about the last two years of his life, when he was so courageous?" he said recently. "When he travelled around the country at his own expense counselling people with terminal illness?"

Lyndon Johnson's brother, the amiable "professional rascal" Sam Houston Johnson, was also familiar with the bottle and during his regular forays on the town (he lived in the White House under the beady eye of his dominating brother) he was always accompanied by secret service agents. "He would go on a tour," LBJ's friend Horace Busby said. "They might last days or months or years."

Possibly the second most embarrassing moment in Richard Nixon's political career involved his brother Donald, a jolly, round and spectacularly unsuccessful businessman. In 1956 the millionaire Howard Hughes

lent Donald Nixon \$205,000 to open a chain of fast-food restaurants, which promptly went bust.

During the 1960 election campaign, Donald was virtually hidden from sight, but Richard Nixon was still dogged by charges that the industrialist Hughes had received unduly favourable treatment from federal agencies because of the loan, which was never repaid.

Even George Bush has not been immune. Younger brother William Bush was said to have been instrumental in persuading the president to choose Malta as a summit venue to further his own business interests, while alleged connections between President Bush's foreign policy and his brother Prescott's Far Eastern business concerns cropped up repeatedly.

So far Bill Clinton has done nothing to keep his brother out of the spotlight, but the First Brother-elect might be forgiven for feeling that with such predecessors the historical cards are already stacked against him.

On the other hand, if he wants a role model, he might be advised to look no further than Neil "Moon" Reagan, elder brother of Ronald, whose main contribution to his brother's presidency was his anonymity.

BEN MACINTYRE

Bless their house, O Lord, we pray

Elizabeth Longford, biographer of the Queen and the Queen Mother, is convinced of the Prince of Wales's unwavering determination to be a good king but believes he will now have to create a new model royal family

For an author to write a book of unexpectedly topical significance is fortunate. To be writing the final chapter of a book called *Royal Throne: The Future of the Monarchy*, as Elizabeth Longford was this week at the moment when the electric message came from Westminster, must be something of a coup.

She had thought the book might be a pleasant occupation for her 87th year. Instead, every time she turns on the news she has to rewrite a chapter. Now, she says, "I shall have to go through and change the tenses from 'might' to 'did'."

All through the revelation-packed summer, it seemed the monarchy was collapsing, and if it had all happened at once, I would have collapsed with it. As it was, with each new story Frank [Lord Longford] would bring back bundles of tabloids, explaining to the newsagent, "These are for my wife". Each time one thought, "Well, now that's over; now we start again", but it never was.

The idea came from the publisher John Curtis at Hodder & Stoughton. "At the time he could not have known anything about what was about to happen, any more than I did. He commissioned me at the end of May, exactly a week before the balloon went up," is the serialisation of Andrew Morton's *Diana: Her True Story*, which Lady Longford reviewed for *The Times* with some distaste: "Morton has an unkind word for almost everyone."

"When I signed the contract I wrote immediately to various people, including members of the royal family, to ask if they would give me interviews. My letter must have arrived on all their desks at the moment of all this horror. So they must have thought I'd taken leave of my senses, without even apologising or even mentioning it." Yet everyone replied, and most — including the Prince of Wales — agreed to see the biographer of Wellington and Queen Victoria, who had already written lives of the Queen and the Queen Mother.

After her "quite long" interview with Prince Charles her admiration for him greatly increased. "I think we are incredibly lucky to have him," she says.

She had been surprised to hear the prime minister say that there was no reason why the Princess of Wales should not be crowned queen: historically this is entirely up to the king to decide. Her eldest daughter Antonia Fraser, whose *Six Wives of Henry VIII* is in its fifth month on the bestseller list, was one of the first to ring up after the broadcast from the House of Commons, and make this point. "Only two of Henry VIII's wives — Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn, who was heavily pregnant — were actually crowned. Jane Seymour would have been crowned, but for the plague. The other three were never crowned."

"And what makes the announcement more extraordinary is the story of George IV. When he tried to get divorced from his wife Caroline, and failed, he got his own back by refusing to allow her to be crowned at his coronation. Although she was Queen Caroline of right because she was still married to George IV, she could not be crowned except by his wish. So there was this tragic and ludicrous scene of her rushing round the Abbey hanging on the doors, locked out and trying to get in, and finally dying about three weeks later. A terrible story. But it rather alters what we heard on Wednesday. Assuming that they are still separated, not divorced — and this may be in 20 years' time or more — it will be in Charles's discretion, and in that time much may have happened."

I had just heard an LBC radio poll in which 88 per cent of

listeners felt that the princess should not be crowned. "Good," said Lady Longford. "I'm pleased about that. I don't think it would be good for the country to have a separated king and queen, or good for the strength of the monarchy."

What is the strength of the monarchy?

"A year ago I like everybody else would have said it stood for the ideal of the family. It encouraged people to see the country as one great family despite their differences. But now the word 'family' has become inappropriate in that archetypal, idealistic sense. And I think to have a separated king and queen would just emphasise that sad development."

"Still, I believe the monarchy itself is just as important as ever. It unites the nation and stands for our history and our aspirations for the future. But I think it was Andrew Roberts, that excellent young man who wrote the life of Lord Halifax, who said that Queen Victoria was very ill-advised to make the monarchy's power depend on being

a wonderful family, and that human beings could never keep that up."

"I suppose people were still thinking of the poor example of George IV, and kept telling Victoria how wonderful she and Albert were with their admirable brood of children, and this convinced her that it was their excellent family life which made them so popular. So it became almost her motto. But it never had been the way of the monarchy, and could never be."

She can perfectly well imagine the princess remaining un-crowned and the prince reigning as a bachelor king. Yet there has been constant doubt about whether in fact he actually wants to be king at all.

"I'm convinced that he does," she says. "Everything he does makes me feel he is absolutely dedicated to being a good king. He is preparing himself with a thoroughness as has never before been known. One may not agree with all his views but he knows what he believes. He wants to be a real king to the whole country, not just a figurehead, someone who really understands people's problems. He wants to feel that he is doing good, hence the Prince's Trust. He seeks out people others might find too difficult to deal with. His projects are very non-racial, and aim to unite communities. Without Prince Charles none of these initiatives would have existed. He raises all the money himself, which alone would be enough labour for most people; but then he goes round and visits them and talks to them."

"Frank and I went to a seminar on young offenders in Pentonville, where the prince and the home secretary and four young offenders all made speeches. I was delighted when the prince showed his humanity by commenting on the hardness of the chairs. They were



Lady Longford, seated foreground, with her husband and three generations of family: no marriage can succeed if you have one black card and one white card, she says

solid wood, brought from the prison chapel, and we all felt the same; it was 'the prince and the chair' instead of the princess and the pea."

The Longfords are a most remarkable couple. Not just for their sprightly togetherness in their mid-eighties, and their industry (Lord L was attending the Sudan debate in the Lords that day, but might very well have been on some windswept railway station, visiting a lifer in some distant godforsaken prison) but for being a sort of national monument to marriage. They met at Oxford and have just celebrated their 61st anniversary. The secret of their total interdependence is that each thinks the other easy to live with. He says she is always happy. She says he is entirely uncompromising, and unconcerned with creature comforts. The fact is, as she once said to me, no marriage can succeed if you have one black card and one white card. The Waleses were incompatible. The Longfords,

two white cards, were luckily not.

The pair are having their portrait painted in the new year for the National Portrait Gallery by Lucy Willis, the winner of this year's award for the best portrait painter. Lady Longford typically says the gallery probably wanted a portrait of her husband, but "they decided to throw me in too". Behind Lady Longford, among the pictures on the wall of her small Chelsea flat, is a striking portrait of Queen Victoria in which every pen-stroke is a letter, forming a history of her reign. ("Every word is legible," she says, "if you have a magnifying glass") presented to her by the staff of the publishers Weidenfeld on the publication of her book *Victoria R.I.*

Some members of the royal family still believe it is the great duty of the family to set an example to others. "But if you insist on perfection in any family you'll be disappointed. They can't be models in that sense. They are human, and we want them to be human, that's

the paradox. On the other hand if too many of them become anti-models or counter-models, that can damage the whole institution of monarchy."

When the Yorks broke up, Lord St John of Fawley said that it was a good thing that the royal family should be so like ordinary families who invariably experience divorce. But if in 20 years' time there were no single example of a lasting happy marriage in this generation of the immediate family, would she not find that distressing? "I think by that time, we might begin to see whether the second marriages are happy; and if they are, we'll take comfort from that." (The Longfords, a Roman Catholic family in which four of the seven children have been through a divorce, are much heartened by their children's happy second marriages.)

As the century wears on, those

with memories of the abdication, exactly 56 years ago, become fewer. "I remember it vividly. I must have been Labour candidate for Kings Norton, a Birmingham seat. I was in Birmingham at the house of one of my uncles — her mother's uncle was Joseph Chamberlain — and he put on the wireless and we heard the 'the woman I love' speech. I just could not believe this was the King speaking. I thought it sounded like the writer of romantic articles in a woman's magazine. I could not believe the king of England could speak like that. It seemed so undignified. But once the age of radio and television had dawned, everybody's heart was dragged on to their sleeve whether they wanted it there or not."

A historian must have a sense of perspective, and Lady Longford is the first to recognise that our kings "have not all been St Georges, fighting our dragons."

"But because I felt that a king makes sacrifices for his country, as

other people do in war, and as many people were about to do in another three years' time, I was shocked and disillusioned. And I would have been very surprised if he and Wallis Simpson had come back to this country: that a king should return to his native land after abdicating is totally against the rules of royalty."

The disillusion was swept away by "Elizabeth and Bertie" whose sense of duty has now passed to their grandson, in whom Lady Longford plainly invests the utmost confidence.

"I hope we give Prince Charles the encouragement and devotion we have always given to the Queen — who is totally different but marvellous in her own way too."

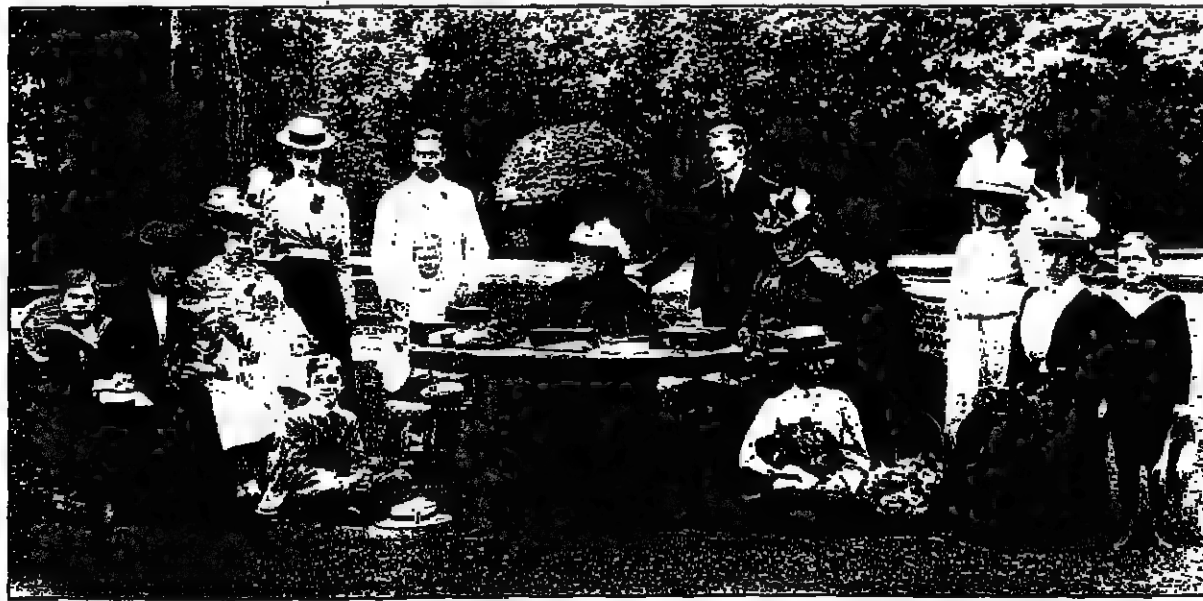
She had been astonished by the Queen's heartfelt words at her City of London speech. "I was amazed that she turned up at all. Her voice was so heartrending. How interesting to discover that the correspondent who wrote to her about her *annus horribilis* has now been been unearthed as that terribly nice man Sir Edward Ford, her former assistant private secretary."

As the Bishop of York emphasised, the fact that the prince is separated will not prevent him from being head of the Church of England. "Even divorce would not stop him. Re-marriage would be different: we can't know what the position would be if he re-married, and we can't rule out the possibility that he might wish to. I think, perhaps, he might. But how do I know?"

She has to deliver her manuscript by December 31, which has stopped her from doing any Christmas shopping at all. The book is due to come out on the 40th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation, next June 2. But Mr Curtis might consider rushing it out sooner, in view of events. The final question the book asks is, will the monarchy survive? Lady Longford is certain that it will.



Queen Victoria (right, centre) was ill-advised to make the monarchy's power depend on being a wonderful family, something that could never be sustained. Left: the Waleses



THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE



Margaret spent her working life caring for others. Now alone, impoverished and unable to look after herself, she desperately needs a place in a nursing home. Homelife has come to her rescue and Margaret will be moving

into one of our nursing homes in time for Christmas. Please help us to help people like Margaret by sending a donation to Homelife. Together we can bring others in from the cold this Christmas.

To: Homelife, The Appeals Dept., FREEPOST London W8 4BR.

I wish to donate £ _____ Cheque enclosed payable to Homelife DGAA or debit my Access/Visa Account No. _____

Expiry date _____ Signature _____

Name/Title _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please send me more information about Homelife and the sort of people you help ☐ or ring Diana Graham on 071-229 2307 or 071-221 9671 (24 hr)

The Disabled Council's Aid Association is registered with the Charity Commission under No. 207812 and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England under Number 515297

HOMELIFE
SUPPORTING LIFE AT HOME
DGAA

XOTS

After the separation, a battle royal about the future of the monarchy will take a generation to resolve, writes Matthew d'Ancona

The Crown and the constitution

When George IV was crowned in 1821, he was so frightened of the mob's reaction to the exclusion of Queen Caroline, that he hired the great pugilist John Jackson and Thomas Cribb as bodyguards, decked out in gold and scarlet finery to soften their thuggish appearance.

The lavish spectacle of the coronation cost Parliament nearly a quarter of a million pounds but was marred by the arrival of the Queen and what Croker described as "a shabby mob", which narrowly failed to sneak her into Westminster Abbey through a side door. A fortnight later the Queen was dead, killed by shame and an overdose of opium. The King could at last be hailed, ironically by Byron as "the Messiah of royalty".

Mobs no longer riot at coronations: even if the Prince of Wales is crowned alone 20 years hence, he is unlikely to need the services of a Lennox Lewis or Frank Bruno to save him from the Spencerite

crowd. But the Hanoverian vignette illustrates the reality that the British monarchy is a weather-vane buffeted by the winds of popular approval, as much as a symbol of stability. In the last 48 hours a gallery of experts has been called in to diagnose the condition of the body politic and reassure the British people that the ravens are not about to leave the Tower.

The litany of questions arising from the separation of the prince and princess is long and troublesome. There was an audible intake of breath in the Commons on Wednesday, when the prime minister announced that the princess could still become queen. Since a queen consort has no formal constitutional status, there is no constitutional reason why she should not

But, if Andrew Morton's biography is to be trusted (and one has to think now that it can), the princess herself is convinced she will never be crowned.

If the separation is merely the prelude to divorce, things will get messier. The prince would have to seek the blessing of the sovereign to remarry under the 1772 Royal Marriages Act. If refused, he could then approach the Privy Council and Parliament for permission, risking a split between Queen, Lords and Commons. A second marriage would probably be civil and thus jeopardise the heir's future position as Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

But even if the divorced heir remained single, his relationship with the church might be problem-

atic. Since the split with Rome, only George I, divorced from his cousin Sophia, has succeeded to the throne in similar circumstances: and, as the first monarch in a new dynasty, he offers a poor precedent for the Prince of Wales.

The church has rushed in with reassurances that the monarch's role as Supreme Governor is *ex officio* only, and that the 1701 Act of Settlement simply requires the sovereign to be a communicant Anglican. Separation and divorce would therefore be no obstacle. But this is a minimalist reading of the sovereign's function in the church, dashed out in the heat of a crisis. It conveniently ignores the ubiquitous references to the monarch's spiritual leadership

— in the bishop's oath, for instance — and the long history of sovereigns and consorts who have embraced that role.

The examples of Edward VIII and Princess Margaret, both of whom were presented with a stark choice between their claims to the throne and marriage to a divorced person, would also become more pertinent as the prospect of a divorced Charles III grew closer. Such a dilemma could, of course, be avoided by a snap disestablishment of the church or Prince Charles's renunciation of the throne. But here speculation should cease. The point is that all these questions are, to some extent, *mal posées*. By seeking "constitutional" answers, they rely a constitution which is not only unwritten but

chameleon-like in adapting itself to the needs of each age.

Thus, Thomas Cromwell and his master Henry VIII are often said to have entrenched forever the sovereignty of king-in-Parliament. Yet, less than a century later, James I and his Lord Chancellor Ellesmere were crafting absolutist doctrines of kingship appropriate to the needs of Stuart government.

Walter Bagehot's great version of the constitution, on the other hand, owed much to the social Darwinism of the Victorian era, in its belief that the "dignified" part of the constitution made the social hierarchy comprehensible to those in its lowest strata. In the same way, passionate Unionism underpinned A.V. Dicey's doctrines. There are no authorities in British constitu-

tionism, only interpretations. Ferdinand Mount has aptly described this as "flexibility in search of permanence" and 50 years from now the confusion besetting the monarchy today will doubtless find its place in that fluid definition.

The independence of the Prince and Princess of Wales may well herald a vigorous competition to mould the monarchy for their children — in one camp, his discreet Bagehotian vision of a king expecting "to be consulted, to encourage and to warn"; in the other, her much flashier mix of media-manipulation and medieval good works.

Along the way, attitudes and protocol will surely change. More questions will be asked and these will get tetchier as deferential shock fades. Above all, it is absurd to suggest that the pat answers offered this week are etched in stone. Between the status quo and a new republic, there is all to play for. This battle royal has only just begun.

A formula for failure

Lord Mackenzie-Stuart on a flaw at the heart of the Maastricht treaty

Subsidiarity is one of the many neologisms spawned by the European Community. It is shorthand for the principle that decisions affecting the lives and conduct of the citizen should be taken as close to the individual affected as may be reasonably possible — an obvious maxim of good government.

However, subsidiarity, became a vogue word in the discussions preceding the setting up of the intergovernmental conference which drafted the Maastricht treaty. Subsidiarity was to be "a way of reconciling what for many appears

I have described the chosen definition as gobbledygook and see no reason to alter my view

to be irreconcilable: the emergence of a united Europe and loyalty to one's homeland; the need for a European power capable of tackling the problems of our age and the absolute necessity to preserve our roots in the shape of our nations and regions," as Jacques Delors said in a speech at Bruges in October, 1989.

For some politicians, fearful of what they regard as the contagious miasma of Brussels, subsidiarity is a specific remedy against the encroaching disease. The Maastricht treaty has tried to give effect to these aspirations in its Article 3 (b). The result is, to say the least of it, unfortunate. In the first place Article 3 attempts to elevate a maxim of sound administration into a series of legal rules. These rules will have to be interpreted, in any given case, not only by the European Court of Justice, but also by every national judge whose duty it is to consider a point of Community law.

This is, in effect, to ask judges to answer questions which are, by their nature, essentially political. Whether or not power to take a certain type of decision is best exercised at a central or at national level is a question which will almost certainly be susceptible of powerful argument either way, and the answer will depend on many factors incapable of judicial resolution. Nevertheless, the treaty places the burden of interpreting Article 3 (b) on the Court of Justice. It is fundamentally wrong that the court should be put in this position.

The court's task is, in any event, rendered almost impossible by the definition of subsidiarity given in the Maastricht treaty. I have described the chosen formula as "gobbledygook", and I see no reason to change my view.

Attempts to define subsidiarity as a legal proposition are legion, but they fall into two groups. The one uses what may be described as the "effectiveness" test. That is to say, is it more effective to take a certain type of decision at the centre? The other group of definitions uses the "necessity" test — is it necessary that the decision be taken centrally? The two tests are vastly different. It is easy enough to imagine activities which can be more effectively regulated by adopting a community solution, but where it cannot be affirmed that it is necessary so to do. Member states may be perfectly capable of regulating the activity concerned even if it might be better regulated at the centre. The trouble is that the Maastricht text adopts both approaches simultaneously.

The second paragraph of Article 3 (b) directs that the "Community shall take action, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, only if and in so far as the objective of the proposed action... can... be better achieved by the Community." This is, in essence the effectiveness test. The following paragraph, however, states "Any action by the Community shall not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the objectives of this treaty." This time it is the test of necessity which is to apply. No guidance is given for the resolution of this conflict.

There is now widespread recognition at governmental level that the Maastricht text alone will not suffice. We have been promised an elaboration at the Edinburgh summit this week. But amendment of the Maastricht text is ruled out on all sides. The practical difficulties of achieving amendment are in any case enormous, as the whole ratification procedure would have to begin again. What shape, then, is the "elaboration" to take? A solemn declaration by the member states? While such a document would, I feel sure, be given due weight by the Court of Justice as a guide to interpretation, nothing short of amendment can alter the words of the treaty as we have them.

One example of bad draftsmanship, however, must not block the ratification of the treaty. The treaty as a whole is too important for that to happen.

Lord Mackenzie-Stuart was President of the Court of Justice of the European Community 1984-1988.

The French farm lobby must be defeated if the Community is to survive, says Nicholas Ridley

Scandal of fortress France



France has always had a sentimental attachment to farming. The pre-1789 aristocrats had picnics dressed as shepherds and shepherdesses, and were painted thus by Watteau or Fragonard. To this day the farming lobby is far the strongest political force in France.

All political parties bow before their demands, however outrageous, although they are only 6 per cent of the workforce. France's priority when the Treaty of Rome was signed may have been Franco-German reconciliation, but agricultural protection followed close on its heels. The French played on German guilt and in return received solid German support for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). This policy also suited the Germans — who have more farmers, who are less efficient, and farm smaller holdings than the French.

Every country in Europe protected their farming industries until the large surpluses began to emerge. For the last ten or more years those surpluses have become an intolerable burden on the taxpayers and a menace both to developing nations and to international trade. Still the French contest every community price review, every reform of the CAP and bitterly resist imports even from other

Community countries. French farming is sacrosanct and nothing must be allowed to cut it down to size.

This is why they tried so hard to sabotage the Gatt trade negotiations with America. Jacques Delors even tried to halt the negotiations in the French interest — an intolerable misuse of his position. The negotiations are, thankfully, successfully concluded. The terms of agreement seem to me much better for Europe than for America. The Commission, which did the negotiations, assures us that the agreement is within the terms of the recently concluded reform of the CAP. In any case the effects of a small reduction in oilseed production will be minimal for French agriculture as a whole — would that it were far more severe.

The reaction from Paris has been violent and despicable. It confirms all one's worst fears about real French attitudes to protectionism, to subsidy, and to sovereignty. It makes one wonder whether a Community can ever be built which includes such a selfish, inward looking, and non-communautaire member as France.

The French remain protectionist. They are violently so in relation to farming. But they also protect their steel, motor cars, aircraft, electronics, wine, banking, insurance and

many other industries. Much of this is achieved through subsidising their numerous nationalised industries. That in itself is a scandal — though unfortunately sanctioned by an Article in the Treaty of Rome. Their vision of Europe is of a fortress with vulnerable French industries protected inside the Community as well as out. They even try to keep out British farm produce and British cars made at plants owned by Japanese firms. They are shameless.

As the CAP takes up two thirds of the Community budget, we all have to help pay for their vast agricultural subsidies. The French farmers receive far more than France pays in: with Britain it is the reverse. France has only recently ceased to be a net beneficiary from the EC. We have paid through the nose because the system was rigged against us from the beginning. Yet still they demand an end to our rebate; still they assault British lorries carrying foodstuffs, and still they abuse us for seeking reform of the CAP and for wanting to conclude a successful Gatt round. Despite the fact that French agriculture is partly living on British subsidies, they lambast us viciously for trying to reduce them.

The French are probably keener

on the Treaty of Maastricht than their narrow referendum result showed. This is because virtually every French farmer voted against it in the mistaken belief that Maastricht would further restrict the CAP funds. It is, in fact, another of the sins of Maastricht that it does not restrict the CAP at all. Nevertheless this nation, supposedly hell bent on European union and majority voting, wants to use a veto and reject the trade agreement, whatever the views of the other 11.

In international trade matters, the Commission negotiates on behalf of the Community, and any such agreement has to be confirmed by majority voting in the Council of Ministers. To get round this, the French first considered using the Luxembourg compromise. (This was de Gaulle's invention, when he tried to obstruct a Community decision in 1965 pleading "vital national interests".) It requires a blocking minority of support for postponing the taking of an unwelcome decision until discussion leads to an acceptable compromise.

But if a blocking minority can be obtained, it would be more effective to use it to veto the entire Gatt agreement, likely to be completed in the spring of 1993. This the French are setting about trying to do, mindless of the tragic conse-

quences for the world's economy — \$200 billion of business is said to be at risk.

They are trying to recruit the Belgians, the Spanish and the Portuguese to their side. Success would give them 28 votes — only 22 are needed to block an agreement. The bait they are using is to offer to support a larger Community budget, which would mean more British money flowing to Spain and Portugal.

If the Community is to survive as an open trading society we have to defeat the French farm lobby when this issue comes to a decision, sometime in the spring. Nor should the Community allow itself to be blackmailed into contributing to a vastly increased budget as the cost of buying off Spain and Portugal. The budget should be agreed on its merits; the two issues are not connected.

John Major has always been commendably firm in his support for a Gatt accord. The test of his skills as a negotiator over the coming months will be to achieve one without conceding a bigger budget to the Community than it needs. France must be isolated and outvoted.

Lord Ridley was Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury 1959-92.

They seek it here . . .

If John Major wants to do a bit of last minute boning-up on the Maastricht treaty in Edinburgh before the summit begins today he would be well advised to come armed with his own personal copy. He is unlikely to be able to lay his hands on one once he arrives.

Although the treaty's fate could depend on the summit, copies of the controversial document are proving as elusive as the Loch Ness monster. A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that they had not brought a single version of the text, authorised or otherwise, to Holyroodhouse, the venue for the biggest event of Britain's presidency of the EC.

The Foreign Office has moved dozens of officials into Edinburgh in advance of the summit but they did not bring the treaty or explanatory documents. "I am not aware of any publications of any kind that the Foreign Office has provided up here," said a spokesman at Meadowbank. "We are not a library you know."

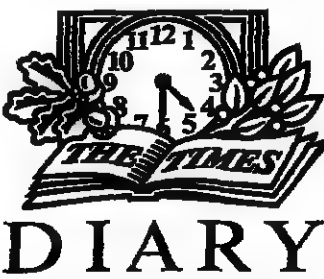
Even if it were, it might make little difference. The Edinburgh Central Library can lay its hands on two copies, only one of which is the approved EC version. "You

cannot take it away," said an official. Hope springs eternal, however, at the European Commission Office in Edinburgh which has a handful of copies. "But come in the afternoon. We close for lunch."

Indeed any ministers who need to refer to the document would do well to contact the anti-Maastricht lobby, out in force in Edinburgh. Their champion Baroness Thatcher is rumoured to keep a copy in her handbag.

Lord Tebbit, who first disclosed that half the cabinet had not read the treaty, was not surprised that there would be no copies available in Edinburgh. "The Maastricht treaty is not exactly a bestseller, is it?" he says.

Tristan Garel-Jones may feel a little uncomfortable when he entertains fellow EC ministers at the Edinburgh summit. The fiercely pro-European Foreign Office minister, will be entertaining guests to drinks in the room in which David Rizzo was stabbed to death in 1966. With the knives already out in Edinburgh, Garel-Jones will be keeping an eye open for glints of steel.



Serbs beware

PATRICK Robertson, the *bête noire* of the Europhiles, has taken on a new cause. Robertson, a founder member of the Bruges Group, has become public affairs consultant for a new cross-party pressure group called "Action for Bosnia", which is calling for greater armed intervention on behalf of the Bosnians in what was Yugoslavia.

He is combining the two causes in Edinburgh, where the alternative Bosnia-Herzegovina conference will be held today at St Cecilia's Hall, in the Cowgate. "I did with the Bruges Group much mischief as I did with the Bosnia group," says Robertson, who is working on a part-voluntary basis. "We shall be operating in the best British tradi-

tion of pamphleteering, writing letters to members of Parliament and organising public meetings." An approach which will no doubt put the fear of God into the Serbs.

Baroness Thatcher's supporters should not be too concerned by her uncharacteristic display of support for the government in the Hong Kong debate in the House of Lords on Wednesday. Within minutes of delivering a strong speech, applauding Chris Patten's policy she was off to a meeting with Philippe Seguin, the French champion of the anti-Maastricht campaign, to plot the downfall of the treaty.

On your marks

NO SOONER had John Major taken his seat in the Commons on Wednesday, after the historic statement, than the race began to produce the first television documentary of the royal separation. John Suchet is already working on *Annus Horribilis* — My Horrible Year, which will be screened by ITV on January 1. Work began on the programme only a few weeks ago and the finished product promises to be every bit as controversial as Suchet's documentary earlier this year, *Diana: End of a Fairytale*. But his may not be the first "anal-



Fairy tales

ROMANCE is not dead. Dame Barbara Cartland, step-grandmother to the Princess of Wales, has just sent out her Christmas cards. They depict a youthful Dame Barbara surrounded by the heroes and heroines from her books. The separation? "It is sad but something had to happen and I think it may very well be what is best for the children," she says.

ago. But they were dismissed with a flea in their ear by Lord Blake and Lord St John of Fawley. Lord Blake says: "I was not prepared to co-operate with interviews which were based on hypothesis."

Uprooted

FOUL play in the Athens of the North? A month ago the Cam-

paign for an Independent Britain had written confirmation that its anti-Maastricht summit could go ahead at Edinburgh's Scandi Crown Hotel today. But with only days to go the reservation was cancelled: the hotel was mysteriously double-booked.

To add insult to injury the group was told it had been forced out by the Danish government, battling to find a way of presenting an acceptable version of Maastricht to its sceptical population.

The group, including Bryan Gould, Bill Cash and Peter Shore, has set up camp in the Carlton Highland Hotel across the road. Danish bacon, Danish pastries and Danish politics are still on the menu.





A DANISH REFLECTION

Those trying to rescue the Maastricht treaty miss the point

It took the government has been trying to lay down the chances of success at this weekend's Edinburgh summit. Gulls are id to be unbridgeable, opponents intransigent, problems intractable. Such a spin is ways cast on these meetings: any success in then be counted a triumph, any disaster as only to have been expected.

The hand that the British government has seen dealt in its six-month presidency has, however, been harder to play than most. The problems of Edinburgh are required to resolve the interdependence and each country has different priorities and concerns, all of which must be reconciled if the summit is to come to any package of solutions. So, for instance, Denmark's demands may not be met by the poorer countries unless the EC budget grants them more money. Meanwhile, there are the cross-currents of French opposition to Gatt and Greek opposition to the recognition of Macedonia. But this resurgence of national interests reflects a deeper malaise across Europe that as pressure on the interwoven threads of Maastricht, threatening to unravel them together. The treaty was hard enough to negotiate when only politicians were involved in the arguments. Now that public opinion has joined in, it has become clear how disparate are the interests of each state in the Community and how wide is the divide between the leaders and the led.

Not just in Denmark and Britain, but in France and Germany too, anxieties have surfaced about the desirability of closer union. Soon perhaps the only countries whose populations will be overwhelmingly in favour of Maastricht will be those who stand to gain financially from ratification: Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Greece.

Thus it is legitimate to ask whether the leaders at Edinburgh, in devoting themselves to trying to rescue a treaty that is most beyond repair, are lacking the right sk. Ever since the Danish "no" vote, European leaders have looked as if they were meaning in the dark: determined to press

ahead with ratification because they had no idea what else to do. Their voters could have told them that it was time to rethink their whole vision for Europe, but few voters, sadly, have been consulted.

So unrealistic and impracticable are the treaty's main goals that Britain and its partners would gain much from the unravelling of Maastricht. The British government remains steadfast in its view that the Franco-German impetus towards closer union is so strong that an inner group of states would motor ahead in the event of the collapse of Maastricht, leaving Britain by the roadside. Yet it may even be misguided to assume that the Franco-German motor is intact.

France and Germany have always based their European policy on the notion that Germany needed to be "tied down" within Europe. The fetters were to be economic and monetary union, through which Europe would cease to be a *Deutsches Reich* zone, dominated by the Bundesbank. To this end, France tied its currency to the mark within the exchange-rate mechanism, at great economic and political cost. As in Britain before Black Wednesday, the *franc fort* policy has led to a rapid rise in unemployment and a slowdown in growth. The franc remains in the ERM but the future reward for the present suffering is looking less and less likely to materialise. As the prospect of EMU recedes, as economic convergence becomes ever more elusive a goal, it is becoming clear that any coupling of the franc to the mark is tantamount to Germany tying France down, rather than the other way round.

In these circumstances, Edinburgh cannot realistically be seen as the culmination of a process whose destination is a ratified and fully working Maastricht treaty. This is how the politicians would like to present it. But the very reason why the resolution of Denmark's demands has proved so tough is that the whole Community far more accurately than the Maastricht treaty reflects its hopes.

HONG KONG'S INTEREST

Britain has a duty to offer the colony real autonomy

The debate on Hong Kong in letters to *The Times* goes to the heart of British policy towards China. Since 1984, when the two countries signed the Joint Declaration on the colony's future after 1997, when it is to be handed over to Chinese rule, Britain has sought to accommodate Peking. Hong Kong's new governor, Chris Patten, has opened a new chapter with his proposals to develop Hong Kong's political system.

So far short do these proposals fall of the demands of some Hong Kong democrats for direct elections that had Peking remained silent, Mr Patten would have been widely criticised for doing "too little, too late". They were carefully drafted to meet the desire of Hong Kong's people for more say over their own affairs while complying, to the letter, not only with the Joint Declaration but with the Basic Law which China had drawn up for post-1997 Hong Kong.

Mr Patten hoped to open up democratic debate within Hong Kong, among those who will have to live under Chinese sovereignty, rather than present them with a *fait accompli* negotiated in secret between London and Peking. This was his sole innovation; and it has unleashed a storm of what Mr Howe has called, with restraint, "over-indulgent denunciations" from Peking.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index has bent before the wind, although it should be noted a passing that it stands 200 per cent higher than it did after the October 1987 crash. Hong Kong's confidence in the governor, at 9 per cent, remains solid; not so that of some businessmen involved in China, and of prominent members of the Foreign Office and the media who ran British policy towards China in the 1980s. Mr Patten's critics believe, in essence, that Britain should

always retreat in the face of violent Chinese opposition, lest China tear up the treaty.

Yet Britain has a duty to implement the provisions in this treaty, on the principle of "one country, two systems" enunciated by Deng Xiaoping. It guarantees that for 50 years after 1997, Hong Kong will "enjoy a high degree of autonomy", retaining its own "social and economic systems... rights and freedoms". Its legislature is to be "constituted by elections" and its government to be "accountable". That is the thrust of Mr Patten's proposals.

China undertook in 1984 to "give its co-operation" to Britain, which retains full responsibility for governing Hong Kong until 1997. That co-operation has been absent, not just since Mr Patten put forward his proposals, but since China crushed its own pro-democracy movement in 1989. Since then, Peking has set out to exert total control over Hong Kong without waiting for 1997. That is why every British concession, and there have been many, has encouraged China to demand more.

The door will remain open to China. Britain and Hong Kong have every interest in a "smooth transition" to Chinese rule. But if China is allowed to veto the implementation of the Declaration, Hong Kong's people would be entitled to consider it worthless. The risk that China — to the great detriment of its wider interests — will fail to honour its undertakings is there, whether or not Britain fulfils its side of the bargain.

The novelty in British policy is that Mr Patten, with the full backing of John Major, is taking the promise of autonomy for Hong Kong seriously — beginning by inviting Hong Kong's people to decide what political system they want. His critics should ask themselves what prospect there is that China will respect its pledge of "two systems" if Britain fails to stand up for it.

NEW BETS FOR OLD

Gambling needs a clean pool, but not an exclusive one

Huffing and puffing against the National Lottery Bill intensifies as it comes up to publication next Wednesday. More than 90 MPs from all the main parties have signed in early-day motion demanding concessions in favour of the football pools companies, and are threatening to vote against the bill if these are not granted. Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, evidently gave little comfort to representatives of the pools industry when he met them earlier this week.

The pools promoters are lobbying hard. They make MPs' flesh creep with predictions of football losing £40 million a year in the levy it receives from the pools, millions of pounds in tax being put at risk, and, even more creepily, thousands of jobs being lost in Liverpool, Glasgow, London and Cardiff. Their underlying fear is that the amount of money spent on gambling is inelastic, and that there is room for only one big prize competition in Britain.

This is to take too conservative a view of British gambling habits. Computer systems have made it simple to juggle huge sums of money in the twinkling of a key-stroke. Punters can lay bets up to the last minute before the draw. The bigger the prize is, the greater the attraction. Modern electronics

have greatly reduced the odds on crooked organisers getting their sticky fingers into the pot.

Britain's football pool culture is curiously rusted in the *Picture Post* dreams of the Fifties. A big national lottery stands to attract new middle-class money into the business. Competition to the pools is going to arrive in any case on January 1 when the other European lotteries, taking advantage of the single market, will be able to sell their tickets in the United Kingdom. Now that Albania has organised a lottery, Britain is the only country left in Europe without one.

The committee stage of the bill will be the time for huffing and puffing over the details, but it should not be allowed to blow down the new gaming house. There will be arguments over dividing the spoils. Charities, the arts and sports could be the main beneficiaries. Care must be taken that poor punters do not end up simply subsidising the pleasures of the opera-going rich.

After that, let competition thrive in the gambling industry. A lottery is in many ways a most satisfactory tax. The taxed volunteer to pay. They derive some fun from paying. And profits will still go to football — and to other causes quite as good.

Break-up of a royal marriage

From Lord Blake

Sir, The prime minister's statement in the House of Commons that there is no reason why the Princess of Wales should not become queen seems to have taken some people by surprise. It is, however, a simple statement of the constitutional situation as it stands at this moment. The wife of the Prince of Wales on his accession to the throne automatically becomes queen. There can be no argument about this, and separation makes no difference as far as the legal and constitutional position is concerned.

Yours faithfully,
BLAKE,
House of Lords,
December 10.

From Mrs Emilie D. Bruell

Sir, There may be no constitutional implications for the nation when a royal marriage breaks up, but there are very serious spiritual ones. Blame must be placed not on the media or the monarchy but on a Church which gives ritual and changeable rules rather than the reality of a relationship with a living, loving God who does not change.

Yours faithfully,
EMILIE BRUELL,
Fig Tree House,
58 Maltravers Street,
Arundel, West Sussex,
December 10.

From Mr Piers Eley

Sir, I was shocked to read the seemingly universal denial by the press that it had any part in the breakdown of the royal marriage. No doubt the newspapers will be reporting on the future lives of the Prince and Princess of Wales, in an equally disinterested fashion. How much, I wonder, are they offering for the first story of a new relationship in the lives of either party?

Yours faithfully,
PIERS ELEY,
35 Montague Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
December 10.

From Mr David Moss

Sir, Bryan Appleyard (article, December 9) describes the Prince of Wales as "dreamy, ineffective and hopelessly unrealistic to an almost infantile degree".

The same prince was scheduled on your Court page of December 9 to carry out that day the following engagements: as President of Business in the Community, attends a conference on Opportunities in Holyhead; as Patron of the Abbeyfield Society, visits the Abbeyfield/SSAFA House in Anglesy; as Chairman of the Prince of Wales's Committee, presents The Prince of Wales Awards; as President of the Prince's Youth Business Trust, presents the 250th Bursary Award; and attends a reception to mark the 60th anniversary of the BBC World Service.

Is Mr Appleyard writing about the same prince?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MOSS,
73 Wroughton Road SW11,
December 10.

Princess's wedding

From Mrs Barbara Pease

Sir, Many of the public, I am sure, would like to show in some tangible way the respect, admiration and affection which they feel for Princess Anne, and also their good wishes for her wedding and future happiness.

Forget toasters (Daily, December 8); simply send a cheque to Save the Children as a wedding present.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA PEASE,
The Ark, Church Street,
Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk,
December 8.

From Mr John Lees

Sir, *The Times* should not be mealy-mouthed. Commander Lawrence's letters to the Princess Royal were not "spirited" from her briefcase, as reported by Alan Hamilton (December 7) as if commenting on some student prank.

They were stolen by a sneak-thief, who deserves only the scorn and contempt of decent people. The *Times* should always speak with a clear voice.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LEES,
Thornfield, Ferncliffe Drive,
Keighley, West Yorkshire,
December 7.

From Mrs Kristin E. Shay

Sir, I was grateful for Tony Highton's article (December 9) setting out the Church of England's position on divorce. For myself, without prejudice or imprisonment in dogma, I cannot see how anyone can go through a church marriage ceremony, with its undertaking to stay together until "death do us part", when a former marriage partner is living. Surely this makes a mockery of the ceremony?

Yours faithfully,
KRISTIN E. SHAY,
45 Gunstone Road, W14,
December 9.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Key Community issues for the Edinburgh summit

From Mr David Carlisle

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Glad tidings for Europe", December 9) is right to include subsidiarity as one of the key "failures" to watch for at the Edinburgh summit. The Maastricht treaty's article 3b on the subject is, as he says, wholly empty.

Under article 3b subsidiarity operates only "in areas which do not fall within [the Community's] exclusive competence". Once the Community exercises competence, EC law makes that competence exclusive.

The legal adviser to the European Commission of the House of Commons made the position clear as long ago as January 1992. He put it on record that:

Of course the doctrine of subsidiarity cannot apply in areas within [the] exclusive jurisdiction of the Community... The doctrine applies, therefore, only in areas of potential Community competence — that is, where the Treaty gives the Community power to act on a discretionary or selective basis... Once the Community does act under any such provisions, Community jurisdiction becomes exclusive at least to the limits of its actual measure and Member States are, again, substantially excluded.

It is worth noting, in the Edinburgh context, that he added: "Member States... cannot, by a co-agreement in Council, unscramble the effect of the Treaty."

In short, advice has been given which plainly shows that the government's rosy picture of subsidiarity is wrong. If ministers are sweeping that advice under the carpet, responsibility must rest with them, not with the advisers who have tried to make the position clear.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CARLISLE,
4 St Martin's Road, SW9,
December 9.

From Mr Oliver Gillie

Sir, Since all political parties are committed to Europe, a referendum on the Maastricht treaty, provided the wording were sensibly chosen and a responsible campaign run, should produce a substantial majority in favour of Europe, particularly if a

robust attitude is promised. Such a victory would invest the government with great political authority both domestically and in Brussels, and it could then negotiate from real strength.

Continuation on the current course would appear to make disaster inevitable. Either Maastricht will be defeated in the Commons despite all-party support, or it will be forced through, leaving the country feeling cheated.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER GILLIE,
126 Court Lane, Dulwich, SE21,
December 7.

From Mr Glyn Ford, MEP for Greater Manchester East (Socialist Labour)

Sir, Your leader of December 8, "Referendum time", argues that Maastricht is not a party issue. How wrong this is. The Tories are trying to push through a version of Europe's Maastricht treaty which omits the all-important Social Chapter. So how could Labour urge its supporters to vote? For a treaty which is fatally flawed? Or against the treaty which every other socialist party in Europe wants? Campaigning for an abstention is not an easily understandable line.

The Times, at least, should be able to acknowledge the complexities of asking people to give a one-word answer to a very long question.

Yours faithfully,
GLYN FORD,
Leader, European Parliamentary Labour Party,
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
December 9.

From Lord Mottistone

Sir, Herr Kohl, the German Chancellor, is reported (December 3) as saying that Denmark and Britain should not be allowed to slow European union:

A Europe is a car, in which each partner chooses what he particularly likes, can no more be our goal than a Europe which has to move at the pace of the slowest ship in the convoy.

Disputed territory

From Professor N. G. L. Hammond

Sir, Michael Binyon ("Macedonia divisions signal diplomatic stalemate", December 5) cites as an example of "intermediate language" Greece's claim that in insisting on the name "Macedonia", President Gligorov of Macedonia is "continuing the policies of Stalin and Tito". History supports Greece.

Tito, trained by Stalin, announced as his policy the creation of a sixth Yugoslav republic, Macedonia. As the senior British liaison officer with the resistance movement at Grevena, some 50 miles within Greece, in 1943, I discovered that the Balkan communist parties were agreed on this same aim, which had also been espoused by Russia.

Had Tito's two attempts to enable the Greek communists to seize power

succeeded, Greece would have been behind the Iron Curtain and the "independent Macedonia" set up.

Nevertheless, Tito continued his policy, calling his sixth republic Macedonia and its mixture of languages Macedonian, and claiming until his death its right to Greek territory as part of Macedonia.

In Balkan politics the name and the policy are inseparable. Mr Gligorov wants both. Greece wants neither, and any ally of Greece which guarantees the frontiers of Greek territory can only agree with Greece.

Let the leaders of Skopje call their state South Slovenia, or Paeonia, or whatever, but not Macedonia, and then Greece and others will grant them recognition.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS G. L. HAMMOND,
3 Belvoir Terrace,
Trumpington Road, Cambridge,
December 7.

The iceman teacheth

From Mr A. J. Legge

Sir, Bernard Levin ("Welcome to the Ghoul Age", December 7) tells us nothing is to be learned from the alpine "iceman" and he should be left to rest in peace. Undefined historical sources also lead him to the generalisation that the world has become "worse instead of better" at some time since the Stone Age.

How does he know? What was life like in the Stone Age? The fascination of this prospect is such for Mr Levin that he surrounds his view with a lengthy list of questions and speculations about the iceman's life and Stone Age life in general. Yet these same questions are being answered by archaeology and its allied disciplines (we would hope to the benefit of Mr Levin's understanding) by just such studies as those he condemns.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LEGGE,
University of London
Birkbeck College,
Centre for Extra-Mural Studies,
26 Russell Square, WC1,
December 8.

From Mr David M. Browne

Sir, Bernard Levin asks that human remains found by archaeologists be left undisturbed. He will be relieved to know that most archaeologists, thank-

fully, no longer possess the sort of cavalier attitude towards human remains of which they could often be justly accused in the past. Indeed, the latest technical paper by the British Institute of Field Archaeologists deals specifically with law and burial archaeology. It is now generally accepted that human remains should be treated reverently and, whenever possible, re-interred with the appropriate rite.

However, we should not lose sight of the very considerable amount of valuable information regarding our ancestors that palaeo-pathological studies can yield, *pace* Mr Levin's misgivings. Archaeologists encountering human remains should make provision for their expeditious analysis, and ensure that proper arrangements for reburial are made with the appropriate authorities when this has been completed.

I fear that there are some museum or other archaeological stores which do not as yet conform to these standards. I hope that for the curators of these, Mr Levin's article has rattled the skeletons in their cupboards.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. BROWNE
(head of archaeology),
Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales,
Crown Building, Plas Crug,
Aberystwyth, Dyfed,
December 7.

US in Somalia

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichto

Sir, For the first time, in this century at least, one nation has invaded another purely for humanitarian reasons.

Cynics may argue that American forces will never solve the long-term problems of Somalia, stop the killing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, end repressive dictatorships such as those of Saddam Hussein, nor prevent the indiscriminate sale of arms for profit; but at least it is a proper use of power.

President Bush was correct to say that sending American forces was doing God's work (report, December 5), because it would feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

As Christians and Jews prepare to celebrate their festivals of warmth and

light, we can rejoice in the glimmer of hope that the civilised nations of the world are at last joining in the international battle against human evil.

Faithfully yours,
SIDNEY BRICHTO
(Senior Vice-President),
Union of Liberal & Progressive Synagogues,
The Montagu Centre,
12-14 Clipsestone Street, W1.

Yesterday's letter from Sir Denis Mahon on government grants to the National Gallery should have referred to the Treasury's "small-minded scheme" as operating to the gallery's disadvantage — not to its advantage. We apologise for the error.

It was my good fortune to spend most of the second world war escorting convoys in the North Atlantic. The aim of each passage impressed on all convoy escorts by the Commander-in-Chief Western Approaches was "the safe and timely arrival of the convoy". This meant convoys being formed so that they could indeed steam at the best speed of the slowest ship.

Even then, there were sometimes "stragglers", which dropped behind and had to be hustled on by the escorts. These were, however, no more of a menace to a successful voyage by the convoy as a whole than "rompers", who would break out ahead of the steaming group of ships.

With the aim for each convoy of its "safe and timely arrival", we won the Battle of the Atlantic and fed and supplied this country.

Perhaps Herr Kohl might remember this and consider whether the European "convoy", whose safe and timely "arrival" most of us want, might not best be "escorted" at the best speed of its "slowest" ship.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
MOTTISTONE,
House of Lords,
December 6.

From Mr C. R. Head

Sir, Can somebody please explain to me (in simple terms) why I am expected to pay generously for public-sector projects in southern Europe when in my own country there are slums, crumbling schools and a seriously under-invested public transport system?

Yours faithfully,
C. R. HEAD,
Redmires, Malvern Road,
Ashford, Kent,
December 9.

From Mr Brian Brophy

Sir, On January 1, 1993, the EC single market comes into being. Do we really need anything else from Europe?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN BROPHY,
499 Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey,
December 10.

Customer-friendly?

From Mr M. Power

Sir, I endorse the sentiment in your leading article of November 26, "Citizens' cane", that the improvement of services requires the "constant and grinding application of political will from the top and its percolation down through layers of... management". But what happens, pray, where the commitment to change among senior management proves more apparent than real?

The disability living allowance departments of the Benefits Agency have established a network of customer service sections; but the very existence and telephone numbers of these sections are omitted from the relevant forms and information packs issued by the agency — as deliberate policy.

Hardly the helpful, customer-friendly, ethos promulgated by government.

Yours faithfully,
M. POWER,
5 Grosvenor Park,
Brecon, Powys,
November 29.

BRRRRR-er-BRRRR

From Lord Greenhill of Harrow

Sir, Your leading article of December 1, "BRRRR — BRRRR", dealt with the revival of the British motorcycle industry. It reminded me that the success of Japanese motorcycles in the overwhelming invasion of the British market was due in part to the introduction of the electric starter. This innovation replaced the exhausting and ineffective "kick-start" on the British machines.

Why it is customary now to seek a "kick-start" to the British economy? We do not need an inefficient kick-start. We need an electric self-starter.

Yours,
GREENHILL OF HARROW,
House of Lords,
December 2.

Sunday service?

From Mrs Belinda Hadden

Sir, In counting the shopping days until Christmas, do we now include Sundays?

Faithfully,
BELINDA HADDEN,
21 Rumbold Road, SW6.

Slippery slopes

From Mr Robert Muskaith

Sir, Even you have failed to convince my wife to join me on the snowy slopes. Your leader today, seeking to downplay the dangers of my favourite winter sport ("Skiing is always going to be riskier than chess"), was accompanied by a report on another page on the conviction of a chess player of the attempted murder of his rival.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MUSKATH,
5 Marlborough Mansions,
Cannon Hill, NW6,
December 9.

OBITUARIES

DAN MASKELL

Dan Maskell, CBE, former British professional tennis champion and All England Club coach, who became the doyen of tennis commentators, died yesterday aged 84. He was born at Fulham, London, on April 11, 1908.

ALTHOUGH Dan Maskell was 16 times Britain's professional tennis champion, coached at the Queen's Club and the All England Club (Wimbledon) and guided Britain to success as coach of the Davis Cup team in the 1930s, it is as a BBC television commentator on tennis at Wimbledon from 1951 to 1991 that he will be pre-eminently remembered. Indeed, his reputation as "the voice of Wimbledon" and as a repository of tennis history overshadowed his earlier successes as player and coach — and his career as a squadron leader who became the RAF's first rehabilitation officer.

As the years went by the voice of Dan Maskell came to seem as much a part of Wimbledon as its strawberries-and-cream, its occasional scorching days or its perhaps more frequent torrential rain. True, his unique species of enthusiasm under restraint harked back to an English moral climate that had well and truly disappeared by the latter part of his commenting life. Yet even in the raucous Eighties, with dissent from umpiring decisions, foul language and unbridled tantrums on the court the norm rather than the exception, his calm, gentle tones did not seem inappropriate.

The seventh of eight children, Maskell had a happy childhood in modest circumstances. His father was an engineer and later managed a pub. Dan Maskell's aptitude for study could not be fully explored because of the family's limited means. But he was also a gifted and versatile games player and the proximity of Queen's Club attracted his interest. He earned pocket money by part-time work as a ball boy and, soon after his 15th birthday, that work became full-time. In 1924, a year marking his first visit to Wimbledon, he became a junior professional at Queen's, and he remained at the club until 1929, when he became the first permanent coach at the All England Club. Except for his wartime service he retained that position until 1955.

In Maskell's playing days there was a strict distinction between professionals and amateurs. He rose to the top (and remained there) of the comparatively small heap of British professionals. From 1928 to 1951 he was Britain's professional champion 16 times. If one counts the 1927 "world professional tournament", which boiled down to a domestic championship. He was good enough to compete with some of the great players of his era and sometimes beat them. His victims included Bill Tilden, often regarded as the finest of all tennis players.

As a coach, Maskell acquired a treasured memory via his association



with the 1933 Davis Cup team, led by Fred Perry, which went to Paris and defeated France to win the trophy for the first time since 1912. Britain retained the cup in the next three years before Perry turned professional.

During the war Maskell served in the RAF, reaching the rank of squadron leader in the rehabilitation unit. For him it was a richly rewarding period and — though it did not involve flying — one, nevertheless, potentially replete with danger. On one occasion in October 1942 Maskell had been given the day off duty to play golf with a colleague who, his commanding officer confided to him, was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Maskell and the colleague were chipping and putting their way round the links in the sunshine at the beautiful seaside course at Saunton in North Devon that afternoon, when a lone German raider sneaked under the coastal radar defences and dropped three sticks of bombs on their Torquay base. One struck the hospital bowling green, another demolished the gymnasium and the third and most lethal destroyed the top floor of the rehabilitation unit killing 23 people — patients and duty staff, including the officer who was standing in for Maskell. For a long time afterwards Maskell felt keenly the providential nature of his deliver-

ance. He put a great deal of himself into his pioneering work in rehabilitation for which he was appointed OBE in 1945. In later years he always said that nothing in his life gave him more satisfaction than that wartime period at Torquay and then at Loughborough, reinforcing the work of medical staff who patched up the airmen by devising remedial exercises to restore their mobility and confidence, thus accelerating their recovery. Such an attitude to professional duties was of a piece with his life. He was a man who cared deeply and in his 1988 autobiography, *From Where I Sit*, he confessed that if he had his time over again he would like to have been a GP in a small country town. This care for civilised standards was much in evidence at Wimbledon as the years went by, and he deplored the exhibitionist behaviour of so many members of the new generation of rising stars.

In 1955 he became the Lawn Tennis Association's training manager. He kept that job until 1973, by which time his horizons had widened. In 1949 and 1950 he worked at Wimbledon as a summariser for BBC Radio and in 1951 he began the commentating career for which he became internationally renowned and for which he was created CBE in 1982.

Maskell's close association with the mannered, ordered world of the

Queen's and All England clubs between the wars influenced his character and conduct for the rest of his life. As apprentice and established professional in turn, he soon felt at home in the company of celebrities. He practised and competed with the great names of international tennis. He coached the royal family, politicians, and others prominent in society. He fitted easily into the glamorous, now vanished era dominated by protocol and etiquette. In later years, his gentility remained relentless.

It was among his journalistic colleagues that if the camera caught a player making an obscene gesture, Maskell's comment (if any) would be something like "How perfectly timed!" or "How very fortunate." Such Maskellisms as "Oh, I say" and "You'll never see a better forehand volley than that" became as familiar as old jokes, and provoked affectionate laughter among those accustomed to his commentating. That was said in a way, because many viewers were laughing at Maskell rather than with him. He could, at times, be too bland, too deliberately inoffensive, too prone to put a *manic* on his critical faculties and exaggerate the quality of a match.

That weakness, if weakness it was, sprang from Maskell's insistence on seeing only the best of everything, and everybody. The joy of the game and its players, in all their nuances and moods, dominated his thinking. He had an unquenchable zest for tennis and his rule within it. He enjoyed the roses so much that he ignored the thorns. As a commentator he was probably at his best when working with Jack Kramer from 1960 to 1973, because of the marked contrasts in their manners, accents, and critical approach. They were complementary.

Maskell had two enviable gifts as a commentator. One was that rich, rumbling, reassuring voice, which emerged from subterranean caverns with oracular authority. The other was his infectious enthusiasm, which swept breezily past accumulating birthdays and, to the last, made his colleagues feel that if he was having so much fun out of tennis and out of life, so should they. He was such a wise and genial broadcaster that he did much to popularise tennis in general and Wimbledon in particular. In this respect he had much in common with John Arlott in cricket and Peter Alliss in golf, though he could not match their sense of humour and gift for the graphic phrase. Maskell continued to be a keen recreational golfer, though he had even more pleasure from skiing. Maskell's enthusiasm was such that even when he was in his eighties, it could be difficult to get him off the microphone for a spell of rest and refreshment. He was meticulous, too. Often, he set an example to colleagues half his age by turning up first in the Press Room and poring over reference books, swotting up facts relevant to players and matches he would later have to discuss. He

never took his experience and knowledge for granted. He was always highly critical of his own performance and on one rare occasion when, through what he felt was inadequate preparation, he made more mistakes — in an admittedly minor match — than he was prepared to tolerate, he actually asked the producer to take him off the air. Work discipline was part of his nature. An example of this was his awareness of when to keep quiet on television, a practice that could not have come easily to a garrulous raconteur with an astonishing grasp of distant detail.

Maskell was an Establishment figure immersed in the traditions and mores of Wimbledon and British tennis as a whole. But he mixed easily at all levels and enjoyed being included in the mocking banter of the Press Room. That made him feel younger. He was the kind of man who wakes up happy and seldom, if ever, turns crusty. If he had a single regret it was that his professional status had prevented him from playing tennis for his country. But he never harped on that. In general he could not believe that life had been so good to him. In truth, he had more cause than most for bitterness, but did not indulge in it.

Maskell and his first wife, Con, had a daughter, Robin, and a son, Jay. At the age of 25 Jay was killed in an air crash. In 1979 Con drowned while swimming off the coast of Antigua. Maskell's wartime work in physical and psychological rehabilitation, plus his basic nature, helped him to bear those personal tragedies far better than might have been expected.

In 1980 he married an old friend, Kay, and — Kipling-style — made a new beginning (it became something of a tradition during the Wimbledon fortnight that at some point Maskell would comment on the quotation from Kipling's "If" which adorns the arch through which the players reach the Centre Court). For Maskell, every day was a new beginning.



LORD DOWDING

Lord Dowding, second baron, former Battle of Britain pilot and the son of Hugh Dowding who led RAF Fighter Command to victory in the battle, died on November 22 aged 73. He was born on January 9, 1919.

WHILE Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding was directing operations in the skies above Britain in 1940, his son was among "the Few" whom he commanded.

A young Spitfire pilot just out of Cranwell, Derek Dowding claimed a Dornier, a Ju-88 and a Heinkel-111, and shared the credit for at least two more enemy bombers during that year, while on missions with 74 squadron over the south coast and northern Europe.

Dowding was pulled out of the Battle of Britain in mid-August before adding to his previous tally for that year. It was a few days before Churchill paid his memorable tribute to Fighter Command, beginning "Never in the field of human conflict..." As he left for a fresh assignment as flying instructor he would seem to have done enough to make his illustrious father justly proud of him. But the truth was that Derek Dowding hated flying.

In the following year he was made a flight commander in 135 squadron, equipped with Hurricanes, then moved to the Middle East where he served as a test pilot until VE-Day. After the war he commanded a bomber squadron at RAF Upwood and spent several years in America, attached to the US Air Force in the Pentagon and at Montgomery, Alabama.

Had he not been Hugh Dowding's son and heir, he would probably never have entered the Royal Air Force. As a young man he wanted to be a racing driver and cars remained the great passion of his life. In later years he loved watching Formula One racing on television. Alternatively he could have been a ski-ing instructor. He was RAF champion one year and was on the fringe of the British Olympic team when the second world war broke out. Instead he found himself fighting his old German friends from the ski slopes.

As a schoolboy at Winchester, Dowding had a reputation for being clever enough but lazy and, in later years, he demonstrated his talents in a number of areas, including politics, photography and electronics. Invalidated out of the RAF as a wing commander, he worked for a while for the



Philips group, selling air traffic control systems. He later worked for a company making component fans.

He became general secretary of the Sea Cadet Association (formerly the Navy League) in 1977 and at the time of his death was still working for the Chicago-based insurance group MacKellar Robinson.

He was immensely proud of his father, the wartime leader of Fighter Command. His last public engagement was at the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Royal Observer Corps (founded by his father) which was attended by the Queen last year.

Inheriting the title his father had received in 1943 on his father's death in 1970, he sat on the cross benches in the House of Lords, making his maiden speech on London's third airport and resisting the blandishments of the main parties. He was a sociable but also thoughtful man who did not, perhaps, realise his full potential. Like so many other sons in his position, he never quite managed to escape his father's shadow.

The second Lord Dowding's first two marriages were dissolved and he is survived by his third wife, Odette, whom he married in 1960 and by two sons of his second marriage. The title now passes to the elder of these, Piers Dowding.

Corrections

THE musicologist and Dvořák scholar whose obituary was published yesterday was John Chappman, not John Chapman. We greatly regret any distress caused to his family and friends.

THE photograph with the obituary of Dorothy Kirsten (November 21) showed Mario Lanza in the film *The Great Caruso* with the mezzo Blanche Thebom, not Miss Kirsten as implied.

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

FOR SALE

TICKETS for all occasions - Phonics, Music, Sports, etc. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD

Take your mind off the rain and the sun by starting the raindrops falling on my head. A wide selection of quality instruments at prices that make you feel as if you're buying them for nothing. Here's a chance to buy them with an option to buy later.

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

MARKSON PIANOS

Established 1910. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

WANTED

ALL Old Oil Paintings & Watercolours. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

FLATSHARE

Wanted: Flatshare. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

RENTALS

Wanted: Rentals. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814. See Times, Virgin, etc. Tel: 071 481 4813 or 071 481 4814

NEWS

Yeltsin fears a 'creeping coup'

■ A constitutional crisis confronted Russian leaders last night after President Yeltsin launched an all-out attack on the Congress of People's Deputies.

Accusing the body of preparing a "creeping coup", he called for a referendum on who rules the country, and immediately turned to the people in search of a million signatures needed to secure a plebiscite. Pages 1, 14

Palace clarifies 'queen' statement

■ John Major's assertion in the House of Commons, that there was no reason why the Princess of Wales should not eventually become queen, had been intended only as a statement of the legal and constitutional position arising out of the separation. Palace officials were keen to emphasise yesterday. Pages 1, 2, 3, 16, 18, 19

Sanctions demand

Journalists who invaded privacy should be subjected to tougher sanctions, a committee of MPs said yesterday. They also held newspapers responsible for undermining the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Page 2

IRA shops bomb

Shoppers came under attack in the IRA's mainland campaign when two hidden bombs exploded outside Wood Green Shopping City, one of London's largest. Pages 1, 6

Life terms ended

Convictions for the murder of a prostitute of the Cardiff three, Stephen Miller, Tony Paris and Yusuf Abdullahi, were unsafe, according to the prosecution and the Court of Appeal freed the men. Page 7

Nato veto

Nato defence ministers yesterday rejected any suggestion that they should send in troops to enforce a settlement between the warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Page 10

Libel danger

The law lords were told yesterday that local newspapers would suffer more than the national media if councils were allowed to sue for libel. Page 5

Rabin rebuke

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, replying to questions about Mordechai Vanunu, imprisoned for life for revealing Israeli nuclear secrets, said out-

siders had no right to pass judgment on a person who did what he did for money. Page 15

Patient ignored

William Reid, the NHS ombudsman, has found that a woman dying of lung cancer lay for six days in a hospital bed without being visited by a doctor able to discuss her condition or tell her what was wrong. Page 5

Hong Kong hitch

For the first time in seven years, negotiations over the transition of Hong Kong to Chinese rule broke up without an agreed final statement. Pages 15, 19

Somalis killed

French troops have reportedly killed two Somalis in Mogadishu after returning fire on a lorry near a checkpoint in the city. Pages 1, 15

Hospitals doomed

Growing opposition from the medical profession is unlikely to save many of London's top hospitals which health ministers are determined to close. Page 6

Ancient gem

Bernard Yarrow, who used a metal detector on a Dorset beach to uncover a tiny Anglo-Saxon jewel, sold it for £41,800 at Sotheby's yesterday. Page 5

Neo-Nazi banned

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has banned another neo-Nazi group, the German Alternative party, and pledged his government would act strongly against violence. Page 11

The tale of the elusive treaty

Not a single copy of the text of the Maastricht treaty, authorised or not, is available at Holyrood House, the venue for the EC summit. A spokesman among dozens of Foreign Office officials sent to Edinburgh for the occasion was asked about the scarcity. He replied: "We are not a library you know." Pages 1, 18



Religious rage: Muslims burn an effigy of P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, outside India's Karachi embassy. Page 15

BUSINESS

No respite: The Bundesbank refused even to hint at a cut in German interest rates, making a strong commitment to stick to its tight monetary policy. Page 23

Bitter end: Alan Sugar formally conceded defeat in his bid to privatise Amstrad, the computer company. Page 23

Markets: Sterling recovering from early falls closed 48 cents down at \$1.5617 and .83 pence down at DM2.4558. On the Stock Exchange the FT-SE 100 closed 24.2 down at 2,726.5. Page 26

SPORT

Tennis: John McEnroe bowed out of top-class singles tennis yesterday with a typically fiery performance encapsulating all the good and bad characteristics of his game in one match, lost 3-6 6-4 6-2 to Croatian Goran Ivanisevic in the Grand Slam Cup quarter-finals in Munich. Page 44

Cricket: Peter Kirsten, the South African batsman, was fined half his match fee (about £220) for remonstrating with the umpire and using offensive language during the one-day international against India in Port Elizabeth on Wednesday night. Page 40

Motor racing: The international motor sports federation, Fisa, has removed the French Grand Prix from the Formula 1 world championship calendar because of tough new laws in France on tobacco advertising. Page 42

Met

Scrap the dumper: BMW has discovered that recycling can make new cars and new profits. Vaughan Freeman reports. Page 39

Get ready: America loves it — now the top-flight Honda Accord is about to hit Britain. Road test and full report. Page 39

Cold facts: Tips on how to take more care on winter roads — and get home in one piece. Page 39

Modern health: All the news from the cutting edge of information technology, from a controversial new computer for the NHS to new ideas in networking. Pages 31-33

Met

Shape-changing: Prizewinning British sculptor Tony Cragg shows us a different world. Page 35

Sing out: South Africa's Ladysmith Black Mambazo have won international success with their Zulu harmonies, but their country's violence has touched them. Page 37

Double Scoot: The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the orchestra of Scottish Opera are to merge to form a new National Orchestra of Scotland. Page 37

Beard from the Tynes: A production of Richard III tests the theory that Shakespeare should be performed in a Yorkshire accent. But is it necessary to do the Battle of Bosworth as a dog-dance? Page 36

Met

Pat of Tinsy's tests: The rumours of Tinsy Rowland's last stand began to spread at the beginning of the week. But will Mr Rowland actually sell half his London stake, or is he revving up for yet another masterstroke? Page 16

Royal coup: To be writing the final chapter of a book called *Royal Throne: The Future of the Monarchy*, as Elizabeth Longford was this week must be something of a coup. Valerie Grove interview. Page 17

Tough acts to follow: Will the brother of President-elect Clinton break a long-established American tradition and not be an embarrassment to the man in the White House? Page 16



One of two noble Father Christmases who greeted the Princess of Wales at the National Head Injuries Association's festive lunch. Page 3



Tzarina Alexandra's bones have been identified through the DNA of Prince Philip. Her sister was his maternal grandmother. Page 5



Pauline Collins, who starred in *City of Joy*, the only big-budget, big-screen film financed last year wholly from British sources. Page 7



Volker Rühle, German defence minister, said Bonn would remain committed to the development phase of the European Fighter Aircraft. Page 11

A man convicted of grievous bodily harm on his wife speaks frankly about his violence and how it is rooted in his family background. *Short Stories: Pulling the Punches* (Channel 4, 8.30pm). Page 43

A Danish reflection

The reason why the resolution of Denmark's demands has proved so tough is that Denmark's problems reflect the problems of the whole Community far more accurately than the Maastricht treaty reflects its hopes. Page 19

Hong Kong's interest

Chris Patten is taking the promise of autonomy for Hong Kong seriously — beginning by inviting Hong Kong's people to decide what political system they want. His critics should ask themselves what prospect there is that China will respect its pledge of "two systems" if Britain fails to stand up for it. Page 19

New bets for old

Let competition thrive in the gambling industry. A lottery is in many ways a most satisfactory tax. The taxed volunteer to pay. They derive some fun from paying. And profits will still go to football — and to other causes as good. Page 19

LORD MACKENZIE-STUART

For some politicians, fearful of what they regard as the contagious miasma of Brussels, subsidiarity is a specific remedy against the encroaching disease. Page 18

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

The reaction from Paris has been violent and despicable. It confirms all one's worst fears about real French attitudes to protectionism, subsidy, and sovereignty. Page 18

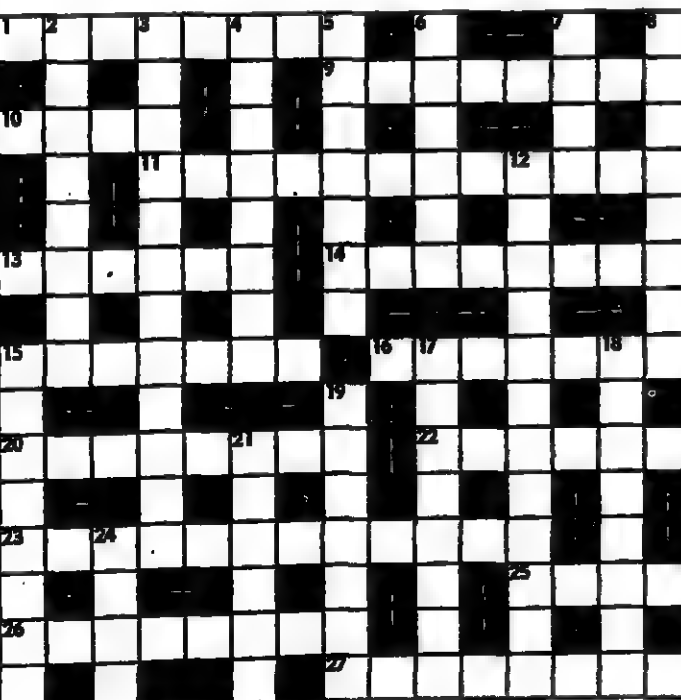
MATTHEW D'ANCONA

If Andrew Morton's biography is to be trusted (and one has to think now that it can), Princess Diana herself is convinced she will never be crowned. Page 18

Views on European issues on the opening day of the Edinburgh summit: discussion of the royal marriage break-up and of the Prince's second marriage on Saturday. Page 19

The modern Royal Family has been eager for publicity, so long as it is the right kind. They wanted intimacy and serenity at one and the same time. *- Evening Standard*

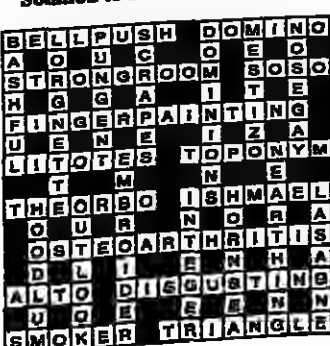
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,099



ACROSS

- 1 In favour of cast showing great insight (8).
- 2 Star rode around recklessly in... (8).
- 3 ... a vehicle, following double bend to arrive at rocky mountain-side (4).
- 4 Say he's better-developed, and now dissonant (3,2,3,4).
- 5 Judge taking a lead outside building (6).
- 6 Jack, Diana and Kathleen, say, to step down (8).
- 7 Rally soldiers going to the front (7).
- 8 Business in a stronger position assigned two lines (7).
- 9 Cops and robbers film — time invested in the shoot (8).
- 10 Story about "The King and I" made into a film (6).
- 11 Established the yen without resistance (4-8).
- 12 Incomplete national flag (4).
- 13 Put one's foot down, and start to effect large-scale movement (8).
- 14 Going off round a turning (8).
- 15 Note the procedure for going to get help (8).
- 16 Brewed string fit for New Year celebration (5-7).
- 17 Duke left town in a state of flux (8).
- 18 Driver, little woman covered in ointment, overturned (7).
- 19 Severely punished boy for embracing girl (6).
- 20 It is about to become an educational establishment (4).
- 21 View crop pest ravaged (8).
- 22 Exam once over, a defender who'll wriggle out of anything? (12).
- 23 Naomi was not so hard-hearted (8).
- 24 Directly I got hurt, treatment was provided (8).
- 25 English girl, one performing in broadcast (8).
- 26 Mangle's double, by the sound of it (7).
- 27 Landlord's communication (6).
- 28 By a quarter? Earnings cut by 5/8 (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,098



Concise Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
North East	702
North West	703
Yorkshire & the Humber	704
West Midlands	705
East Midlands	706
London & the South East	707
South West	708
Wales & the West	709
Scotland	710
Ireland	711
Channel Islands	712
Jersey	713
Guernsey	714
Wales & the West	715
North East	716
North West	717
Yorkshire & the Humber	718
West Midlands	719
East Midlands	720
London & the South East	721
South West	722
Wales & the West	723
Scotland	724
Ireland	725
Channel Islands	726
Jersey	727
Guernsey	728
Wales & the West	729
North East	730
North West	731
Yorkshire & the Humber	732
West Midlands	733
East Midlands	734
London & the South East	735
South West	736
Wales & the West	737
Scotland	738
Ireland	739
Channel Islands	740
Jersey	741
Guernsey	742
Wales & the West	743
North East	744
North West	745
Yorkshire & the Humber	746
West Midlands	747
East Midlands	748
London & the South East	749
South West	750
Wales & the West	751
Scotland	752
Ireland	753
Channel Islands	754
Jersey	755
Guernsey	756
Wales & the West	757
North East	758
North West	759
Yorkshire & the Humber	760
West Midlands	761
East Midlands	762
London & the South East	763
South West	764
Wales & the West	765
Scotland	766
Ireland	767
Channel Islands	768
Jersey	769
Guernsey	770
Wales & the West	771
North East	772
North West	773
Yorkshire & the Humber	774
West Midlands	775
East Midlands	776
London & the South East	777
South West	778
Wales & the West	779
Scotland	780
Ireland	781
Channel Islands	782
Jersey	783
Guernsey	784
Wales & the West	785
North East	786
North West	787
Yorkshire & the Humber	788
West Midlands	789
East Midlands	790
London & the South East	791
South West	792
Wales & the West	793
Scotland	794
Ireland	795
Channel Islands	796
Jersey	797
Guernsey	798
Wales & the West	799
North East	800

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circles)	732
M1/M25/M40/M4	733
M1/M25/M40/M4	734
M1/M25/M40/M4	735
M1/M25/M40/M4	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
Wales	739
North East	740
North West	741
Yorkshire & the Humber	742
West Midlands	743
East Midlands	744
London & the South East	745
South West	746
Wales & the West	747
Scotland	748
Ireland	749
Channel Islands	750
Jersey	751
Guernsey	752
Wales & the West	753
North East	754
North West	755
Yorkshire & the Humber	756
West Midlands	757
East Midlands	758
London & the South East	759
South West	760
Wales & the West	761
Scotland	762
Ireland	763
Channel Islands	764
Jersey	765
Guernsey	766
Wales & the West	767
North East	768
North West	769
Yorkshire & the Humber	770
West Midlands	771
East Midlands	772
London & the South East	773
South West	774
Wales & the West	775
Scotland	776
Ireland	777
Channel Islands	778
Jersey	779
Guernsey	780
Wales & the West	781
North East	782
North West	783
Yorkshire & the Humber	784
West Midlands	785
East Midlands	786
London & the South East	787
South West	788
Wales & the West	789
Scotland	790
Ireland	791
Channel Islands	792
Jersey	793
Guernsey	794
Wales & the West	795
North East	796
North West	797
Yorkshire & the Humber	798
West Midlands	799
East Midlands	800

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circles)	732
M1/M25/M40/M4	733
M1/M25/M40/M4	734
M1/M25/M40/M4	735
M1/M25/M40/M4	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
Wales	739
North East	740
North West	741
Yorkshire & the Humber	742
West Midlands	743
East Midlands	744
London & the South East	745
South West	746
Wales & the West	747
Scotland	748
Ireland	749
Channel Islands	750
Jersey	751
Guernsey	752
Wales & the West	753
North East	754
North West	755
Yorkshire & the Humber	756
West Midlands	757
East Midlands	758
London & the South East	759
South West	760
Wales & the West	761
Scotland	762
Ireland	763
Channel Islands	764
Jersey	765
Guernsey	766
Wales & the West	767
North East	768
North West	769
Yorkshire & the Humber	770
West Midlands	771
East Midlands	772
London & the South East	773
South West	774
Wales & the West	775
Scotland	776
Ireland	777
Channel Islands	778
Jersey	779
Guernsey	780
Wales & the West	781
North East	782
North West	783
Yorkshire & the Humber	784
West Midlands	785
East Midlands	786
London & the South East	787
South West	788
Wales & the West	789
Scotland	790
Ireland	791
Channel Islands	792
Jersey	793
Guernsey	794
Wales & the West	795
North East	796
North West	797
Yorkshire & the Humber	798
West Midlands	799
East Midlands	800

SKIING HOLIDAYS

CAN GO DOWNHILL... if you haven't got the proper insurance. Ring WPA Travel Plan before you go for immediate cover.

Make sure with

WPA
Health International
Telephone: 081-680 6808

WEATHER

Much of England and Wales will be cloudy with a little rain or drizzle. More persistent rain in the North will spread across most parts during the day, reaching Wales and much of England by the evening. This will be followed by brighter weather with blustery showers over much of Scotland and Northern Ireland. It will become cold and windy in the North. Outlook: windy and unsettled with rain at times.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1=thunder, 2=drizzle, 3=fog, 4=snow, 5=rain, 6=cloud, 7=clear, 8=partly cloudy, 9=partly sunny, 10=partly rainy, 11=partly stormy, 12=partly severe.

TODAY: 1=Thunder, 2=Clouds, 3=Clear, 4=Rain, 5=Snow, 6=Steady rain, 7=Fast, 8=Slow		C		F		
Algeria	14-17	57-61	1	Macquarie	18-21	64-69
Algeria	14-17	57-61	1	Manila	19-21	66-70
Algeria	14-17	57-61	1	Mexico	18-21	64-69
Algeria	14-17	57-61	1	Mexico C*	19-21	66-70
Algeria	14-17	57-61	1	Miami	19-21	66-70
Bahrain	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69	3	Moscow	18-21	64-69
Bahamas	19-21	65-69				



ARTS 35-37

South Africa's top musicians come to London



MOTURING 39

Recycling can make new cars and new profits



SPORT 40-44

AC Milan: the world's best football team

SMALL BUSINESS ON FRIDAY Page 34

THE TIMES

2

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11 1992

BUSINESS TODAY

RESIGNED



Japan is facing up to the painful fact that years of meteoric growth have come to an end and a recovery is nowhere in sight Page 27

HOPEFUL

Michael Heseltine believes French protests over the farm deal pose no serious threat to the world trade talks Page 28

SHATTERED



Profits at Pilkington fell sharply from £50.6 million to £15.1 million in the first half but the dividend is unchanged Page 25

TOMORROW



Christopher Morris, Touche Ross's insolvency star, says women often sit in his office and cry, after he dismisses their husbands

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5617 (-0.0048)
German mark 2.4558 (-0.0083)
Exchange index 80.2 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2064.2 (-10.6)
FT-SE 100 2726.5 (-24.2)
New York Dow Jones 3310.84 (-12.97)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17501.30 (+85.08)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 7%
3-month Interbank: 7 1/4%
3-month eligible bills: 6 1/4%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill: 3.22-3.21%
30-year bonds: 102 1/2-102 3/4

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.5577
£: DM1.5763
£: Sfr1.4093
£: FF8.3630
£: Yen122.49
£: Index: 80.2
ECU: 10.787125 SDR: 80.890282
ECU1.254508 SDR1.123238
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$333.90 PM \$333.70
Close \$333.80-334.00
2214 10-214.60
New York
Comex \$333.45-333.95

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Jan) \$18.20/bbl (\$17.85)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.9 October (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

German stance keeps ERM in firing line

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN FRANKFURT

THE Bundesbank yesterday refused to provide a lifeline to Europe's embattled exchange-rate mechanism, instead making a strong commitment to stick to its tight monetary policy for the whole of the next year.

The Bundesbank's decision not even to hint at a cut in German interest rates will come as a disappointment to European leaders, who are meeting in Edinburgh today for the EC summit.

Politicians and investors have expressed fears that persistent high German interest rates will ensure a continuation of currency tensions throughout Europe, which were exacerbated yesterday by a forced devaluation of the Norwegian crown.

However, some economists argued the Bundesbank was actually laying the groundwork for lower interest rates next year, by setting its new monetary targets at a level that would not require it to claw back any of the exceptionally fast growth of the German

The Bundesbank has kept open the possibility of a cut in interest rates in January despite tough talk that will disappoint the European summit meeting in Edinburgh

money supply in the past few months.

At its last meeting before the end of the year, the Bundesbank's central council decided to leave official interest rates unchanged and indicated that there will be no near-term easing in rates either. Such hopes were immediately dismissed by Helmut Schlesinger, the president of the Bundesbank, who insisted that "there exists no scope for rate reductions" as long as inflation remains close to 4 per cent.

At a two-day marathon session the Bundesbank decided to restrain the growth of M3, its preferred measure of money supply, to between 4.5 per cent and 6.5 per cent.

Although this is an increase of only one percentage point from this year's official target, the Bundesbank has implicitly decided to ignore the whole of

the overshoot in monetary growth during the past 12 months.

Some economists argued that the new target would therefore offer plenty of headroom for lower German interest rates, once the Bundesbank decides the time has come to ease.

The German decision was copied by the French central bank, which also yesterday set its own monetary target range, at 4 per cent to 6.5 per cent. These co-ordinated moves signalled a strong determination by the two central banks to retain the ERM parity of the franc and to send a signal to speculators that it is not worth betting against the franc.

In its official statement, the Bundesbank said that the decision "means no deviation from the present tight course in monetary policy".

Yesterday's new target range is much tighter than the 6 per cent to 8 per cent range that was recommended by Germany's leading economic institutes in their official autumn report. Dr Richard Reid, European economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, said that the "tone of the statement is pretty hawkish, but the target is suitable because it is hittable".

Early in the day, Norway finally yielded to the inevitable and decided to decouple the crown from the ecu, thereby following an example set by Sweden and Finland.

After yesterday's announcement, the French franc came close to hitting its 3.43 floor against the mark but later recovered to 3.4150. Sterling continued to languish against the strengthening mark, falling to DM2.4425 at one point before recovering to DM2.4550. The Norwegian crown slumped to end at 4.2750 to the mark compared with 4.09 at the opening.

Comment, page 27



Cautious Lamont and Leigh-Pemberton yesterday



Golden harvest: Nick Peach, left, finance director of Taunton Cider, and Peter Adams, chief executive, celebrate a share price that firmed to a high of £2 at one stage yesterday, on the back of pre-tax profits of £9.9 million against £7.5 million on a strictly comparable basis in the half-year to end-October, and a maiden dividend of 2.4p.

Electricity watchdog fuels row

BY ROSS TIERMAN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PROFESSOR Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, fuelled the conflagration over the future of Britain's energy industry yesterday by calling for a review of nuclear subsidies and demanding that power generators rethink their policy over pricing.

He simultaneously increased the pressure on those struggling to save Britain's coal industry by suggesting, surprisingly, that coal is Britain's highest-cost fuel, more expensive than power generated from gas, or even by atomic reactors.

However, he indicated that there could be scope for a larger coal industry if British Coal could cut prices, and if the ability of electricity companies to pass on costs to customers without question were constrained.

The interim findings from Professor Littlechild's review of power purchasing contracts agreed by regional electricity companies were vehemently rejected by both National Power, Britain's biggest generator, and by Nuclear Electric, its state-owned rival.

Colin Webster, commercial director of National Power, said he was "utterly amazed" at the findings.

The analysis on which the comparisons are based is faulty, and leads to incorrect conclusions which are unfair to coal," he said.

Comment, page 27

Bankers to meet Chancellor

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE enquiry into bank treatment of small business customers, ordered last month by Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be completed after meetings next week between the leaders of the big four banks, Royal Bank of Scotland, the British Bankers' Association and Mr Lamont. Businesses have complained that the banks have widened their margins as interest rates have come down, so that they get no benefit.

Last month, NatWest and Barclays cut their minimum interest rates for business accounts, to allow customers the benefit of the 1 per cent

reduction in bank base rates announced in the Autumn Statement. However, Barclays, which has 750,000 small business customers, has told the enquiry that it now charges customers with a turnover below £250,000 an average of 3.4 per cent over base rate. A year ago the average was 2.9 per cent.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the president of the British Bankers' Association and the chairman of TSB Group, wrote an open letter to Mr Lamont after the banks made their submissions to the enquiry, expressing growing anger among banks, which feel they are

being treated as scapegoats for the recession. He said he wanted to head a deputation of other bank chairmen to meet the Chancellor. He is expected to represent the BBA. Andrew Buxton, the chief executive of Barclays, meets Mr Lamont on Thursday. Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest has accepted. At Midland it had not been decided whether Sir Peter Walters, chairman, or Brian Pearce, chief executive, would attend. Lloyds is still deciding whether Brian Pitman, chief executive or Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman who retires shortly, will attend.

Lamont wary of further rate cut

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, repeated that he wanted a strong pound. He said it was right to be cautious about further interest-rate cuts until there were signs of new life in the economy.

His comments coincided with publication of the first of the Treasury's monthly monetary reports. They were made after a 45-minute meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England in which the report was discussed.

The reports are intended to outline the economic evidence the Treasury is using, as part of the government's efforts to be more open about its assumptions in making policy. Mr Lamont said: "I am cautious about predicting the turning-point in the economy. We have seen several false dawns before, but there are some encouraging signs."

He highlighted recent rises in retail sales and M0, the narrow measure of money supply, as positive signs and said they were grounds for caution about lowering interest rates further. But the 45-page report is relatively downbeat and gives little reason to rule out an extra kick start for growth in due course.

The Treasury does not seem unduly worried by inflationary trends, which would limit scope for lower rates. It also notes that consumer and business confidence remain at a low ebb, that the shake-out in employment is continuing and that the housing and commercial property markets are still weak.

The Chancellor specifically mentioned asset prices as an indicator he would look at in setting monetary policy after

sterling's exit from the exchange rate mechanism.

Halifax Building Society said last week that house prices had risen by 0.1 per cent in November, the first monthly rise since June. The Treasury report says the housing market is stagnant and there is no sign of increased turnover. It also says there is no evidence that the decline in commercial property prices and rents is slowing.

There was a palpable feeling of anti-climax among non-government economists, who had hoped for more substantial signs of the Treasury's thinking. "It makes no contribution to the policy debate at all," said John Sheppard, of Warburg Securities.

Comment, page 27

Shareholders give Sugar a caning

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

FATE smiled unkindly on Alan Sugar yesterday. He had come to The Insurance Hall, Aldermanbury, hoping to bury Amstrad plc and read its will. The company's biggest vote would have been 30p a share to everybody who had been with Amstrad at its corporate death.

Instead, Mr Sugar was roundly defeated by shareholders who were not in the mood to mourn, and who did not want his 30p a share in their pocket. Having boxed a few corporate cars, Mr Sugar went home with a corporate body that still has some life in it.

The gods were not with him, but then Mr Sugar should have looked up at the stained glass windows of the Insurance Hall beneath which he sat. One pane was devoted to Phoenix—which was evident-

ly the model that shareholders wanted Amstrad to become.

There were 7,848 shareholders who voted against the 30p offer, representing 99.13 million shares, and 5,518 shareholders (108.5 million shares) voted for. The extraordinary meeting that followed lasted four minutes.

Mr Sugar's failure to privatise Amstrad has cost him personally between £400,000 and £450,000. Professional fees have yet to be assessed.

Mr Sugar left his followers in no doubt that plans to "slim down" Amstrad are going to be implemented. "I will not do anything destructive or deliberately damage the company and I will be back in the office in the morning and storming around as I normally do."

He looked forward to the arrival of two non-executive directors. A shareholder

asked how the present board could have the "brass neck" to remain executive directors now that the buyout plan had been thrown out.

"If the non-executives say that all the board are 'plonkers', then it is the company which will deal with that issue—not you," Mr Sugar retorted.

Mr Sugar swiped at those in the City who had expected to be given inside information, which he had never been prepared to give. He regretted that institutions with "big mouths when it comes to talking to the press" had stuck their heads in the sand when he asked if they would vet any short-list of non-executives applicants. He will remain chairman and chief executive... "unless I make the tea lady the chief executive" he said.

Amstrad plc lives. Shareholders wish it a long life.

THE CLASS DIFFERENCE

CONTINENTAL Airlines

are ABOUT TO INTRODUCE Air INCHES.

The airline that flies to over 140 US cities every day is about to introduce new measures that will make all the difference to the comfort of Business Class travellers. Miles more information coming soon.

Continental Airlines
One Airline Can Make A Difference.

UK defence firms hail Eurofighter go-ahead

■ About 40,000 manufacturing jobs in the UK have been saved by a four-nation agreement to produce an à la carte version of the European Fighter Aircraft.

By Ross Tiesman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of Britain's defence industry reacted with near-jubilance to the decision by the defence ministers of Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain to continue work on the European Fighter Aircraft.

As many as 40,000 jobs in Britain will be safeguarded and Britain's defence industry, a world leader, will be able to maintain its position at the forefront of technology.

Hailing the "far-sighted" outcome of last night's meeting of ministers in Brussels, Air Vice Marshall Tony Mason, head of the Society of British Aerospace Manufacturers, said the decision was "good news for the aerospace industry and good news for the British economy as a whole".

The future of the four-nation project to design and build a replacement for the Tornado multi-role aircraft was thrown into doubt when Germany indicated its desire for a cheaper plane. The partners have now agreed an EFA "à la carte". Although they are expected to buy a common airframe, engine and radar, other systems will vary in sophistication.

EFA's significance for British industry can scarcely be overstated. British Aerospace has a 33 per cent stake in the Eurofighter consortium, along with Deutsche Aerospace, Alenia of Italy has 22 per cent and CASA of Spain has 13 per cent.

These shares, which are reflected in national work-share arrangements, reflect the number of aircraft which each state was originally expected to buy, some 765

warplanes in total, of which 250 would equip the Royal Air Force.

Rolls-Royce, the turbine maker, is a leading partner in the consortium that will build the plane's engine.

A third of the work to be undertaken under the £22 billion programme would thus accrue to British companies. Revisions to the programme and the search for economies may pose some difficulties for manufacturers, particularly if the production phase is delayed. But these pale when set against the restructuring that would have resulted from cancellation.

About 300 UK firms are involved; for many, the project is the key to maintaining a position in the vanguard of aerospace technology. British companies are lead managers on many programmes. GEC Marconi, for example, has more than 3,000 people working on EFA systems, including the ECR90 radar, head-up display units, and the plane's fly-by-wire control system.

Experience gained on EFA has been crucial to the company's success in winning development contracts on EFA's American equivalent, the F22. GEC Marconi's American subsidiaries, working in partnership with UK operations, have won the contract to develop the F22's fly-by-wire system, for example.

Bae said the German decision to defer first deliveries until 2003, while the RAF wants its first planes in the year 2000, would pose some difficulties. However, it believes there will be no undue loss of production economies.

Rühe surrenders, page 11



Sharp cards: Keith Chapman reported higher profits, but said monetary crisis had dented confidence

Seasonal cheer at Fine Art

DESPITE economic gloom, Keith Chapman is looking forward to a happy Christmas at his Yorkshire home.

Fine Art Developments, the greetings card maker of which Mr Chapman is chairman, reported pre-tax profits of £4.95 million in the six months to September, compared with £4.5 million previously.

Operating profit was up only marginally but interest payments fell from £5.2 million to £4.8 million. The interim dividend is raised from 2.7p to 3p.

Mr Chapman says: "The collapse of the government's monetary policy in September and the resulting loss of consumer confidence had a significant impact on business activity."

Power duo fuel profit debate

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

TWO more electricity distribution companies have fuelled the debate about high profits in the industry by reporting performances that comfortably beat recessionary pressures during the summer.

An £8 million reduction in the normal seasonal losses from the supply business helped Midlands Electricity advance taxable profits from £27.0 million to £33.4 million in the half-year to end-September. Meanwhile the smaller South Western Electricity raised pre-tax profits from £13.6 million to £15.9 million.

Both are raising their interims 12.4 per cent. Midlands to 6.35p and South Western to 5.9p.

The better performance from the Midlands supply business, which can expect to

make a profit for the year as a whole, contrasts with a flat performance from the core distribution side and an advance at the operating level there of just £1 million to £61 million. The clutch of other businesses that Midlands owns, primarily the retail side that from next spring will be merged with those of Southern and Eastern, improved by £900,000 to £2.4 million.

Midlands' plans for diversification continue apace, and Bryan Townsend, the chairman, said the aim was to grow organically as a company operating across the spectrum of the energy field. Midlands will shortly announce its first project to generate energy from waste, putting £10 million into a project worth perhaps £100 million.

William Nicol, chairman of South Western, said market conditions facing the company had shown no visible improvement during the first half. Operating profits were just 4 per cent higher, but interest charges fell by 20 per cent as a total of £33.9 million of cash was generated during the first half.

South Western is now two thirds of the way through a three-year programme to cut costs by 10 per cent and has already achieved an 8 per cent reduction.

The retail business saw operating losses deepen sharply to £2.6 million against just £200,000 last time, reflecting the poor demand for domestic appliances.

Tempos, page 26

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

GUS rings up interim profit of £195 million

GREAT Universal Stores, the retail and finance group, has raised profits before tax from £183.7 million to £194.8 million in the six months to end-September. The half-year dividend rises from 12.75p to 13.75p out of earnings up from 49.2p to 52.1p. The A shares fell 35p to £16.18 and the ordinaries were unchanged at £22.00. The home shopping division climbed from £78.2 million to £81.5 million at the trading profit level. Burberrys rose from £11.6 million to £12.5 million.

Overseas retailing advanced from £8.7 million to £10.8 million and property rentals rose from £22.6 million to £25.3 million. Consumer finance and investment income increased from £61.2 million to £62.1 million. GUS said that firm control of overheads, emphasis on cash flow and productivity improvements have contributed to overall progress. Rationalisation and advanced warehouse systems have been in train for some time. GUS added. Tempos, page 26

Irish inflation to drop

THE Central Bank said that inflation in the Republic of Ireland could drop as low as 1.75 per cent next year. In its latest quarterly bulletin, the bank said consumer price inflation has tended to ease throughout 1992 and the trend is projected to continue into next year. The annual average rate of inflation is likely to decline from about 3.25 per cent in 1992 to as low as 1.75 per cent next year. The Central Bank also forecast that the Irish Republic's real gross national product would increase by 1.5 per cent in 1992 and again by 1.5 per cent in 1993.

Record for US banks

COMMERCIAL banks in America earned a record \$8.5 billion in the July-September quarter, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. However, officials noted that profits were driven in large part by historically low interest rates on deposits. The report marks the third consecutive quarter of record profits. Banks earned \$7.9 billion in the second quarter and \$7.6 billion during the first three months of the year. The industry, with \$24.1 billion in earnings for the first nine months of 1992, will almost certainly surpass the annual record of \$24.9 billion, set in 1988.

TVS bid opposed

SHAREHOLDERS in TVS Entertainment, the ITV contractor due to lose the franchise for the south of England, have passed a resolution to allow the £45.3 million bid from International Family Entertainment to go ahead. But IFE faces a sizable camp of aggrieved preference shareholders. Adviser Julian Treger, of Restructuring Advisers, said: "There is a large group of preference shareholders who are not inclined to accept the offer from IFE. It's their choice whether they are going to alter the offer or have a large and vociferous minority shareholding instead."

LMS payout pegged

LONDON Merchant Securities, the property development and investment group, has maintained interim pre-tax profits because of increased rental income and reduced net interest payments. Profits before tax and extraordinary items of £11.26 million for the six months to September 30 were barely down, helped by a surge in interest income from £3.26 million to £5.73 million and property rental up 10 per cent to £15 million. An extraordinary item of £592,000 relates to realised gains, less tax of £220,000, from the sale of capital assets. Dividend is 0.8p again, part-financed from reserves.

Archer profits plunge

A. J. ARCHER Holdings, the quoted Lloyd's managing and members' agency group, told shareholders that profits would remain depressed for the next two years and that it was likely that the dividend would be cut next year. Taxable profits for the year ending September 30 plunged 70 per cent from £3.12 million to £940,000. The 4.4p dividend was held. Lower profit commissions, which have dropped from £2.2 million to £718,000, were to blame. Richard Mayman, the chairman, said conditions had improved during 1992 and that this trend could continue through 1993.

Norbain buys Baxall

NORBAIN Electronics, the closed circuit TV maker, is buying Baxall, a supplier of TV equipment, despite failing to exercise options to acquire 100 per cent of the shares. Norbain is paying £413,508. In October last year Norbain paid £100,000 for preference shares that would convert into a 51 per cent stake and had an option to buy the rest for a maximum of £2.5 million, depending on profits. Those rights were never taken up. In the meantime Baxall has improved efficiency, but provisions against stocks and debts prevented it obtaining further finance to keep trading.

Dunkeld to restructure

DUNKELD, the clothing manufacturer, proposes a further reorganisation that will consolidate its 1p shares into 10p shares and raise £1.7 million by placing 7.1 million new shares at 35p. It is also paying £1 million to buy Slix, a women's swimwear supplier, with £400,000 in cash, plus 1.1 million shares, and £1.7 million for Tern, which makes shirts, with £1.5 million in cash and 4.4 million shares. Dunkeld's bankers are converting £5.9 million of loans into 8.6 million shares and £875,870 of preference shares into 1.3 million ordinary shares.

JFB interims down

PRE-TAX profits at Johnson & Firth Brown fell from £9.6 million to £7.2 million in the half year to September. John Clay, chairman, said trading conditions were the most difficult he had experienced. Acquisitions took turnover £5 million higher to £124 million, but there was an underlying decline of 9 per cent. Sales outside the UK were almost 40 per cent of the total. The final dividend of 2p gives a maintained total of 3p. Mr Clay retires at the annual meeting and will be replaced by Martin Llowarch, formerly chief executive of British Steel, who joined JFB as deputy chairman in June.

South Western Electricity plc

Interim Results

Interim results for the six months ended 30 September 1992 (unaudited)

	1992	1991	Up
Profit before Tax	£15.9m	£13.6m	17%
Earnings per share	10.1p	8.5p	19%
Interim Dividend per share	5.9p	5.25p	12.4%

"Despite the difficult market conditions, which even the traditionally resilient area of the South West is inevitably experiencing, we are pleased that we have been able to increase profits whilst achieving improved customer service standards beyond the levels which helped us earn a Charter Mark Award earlier this year.

I am also pleased to report that we have made considerable progress in developing new businesses, such as wind power and gas supply."

SWEB

William Nicol
Chairman

Copies of the interim report will be mailed to all share holders and are available from Investor relations, South Western Electricity plc, 800 Park Avenue, Bristol BS12 4SE. Tel: 0454 201101

Compass serves up a healthy £34.9m

By Derek Harris

COMPASS, the expansion-hungry catering and healthcare group, brought in full-year pre-tax profits of £34.9 million, up a tasty 9.1 per cent on the year before. Turnover at £345.1 million was up 7.5 per cent. The total dividend is 12.3p a share, up from 11.4p.

Compass is Britain's second largest contract caterer, but its biggest single dash for growth came unstuck when it failed in its bid to buy the Gardner Merchant contract catering subsidiary from Forte, the hotels and catering group. In the accounts, the cost to Compass of the aborted negotiations is given as £2.3 million net of tax.

However, after the financial year-end, Compass made two expansion moves. It acquired the profitable Travellers Fare, with its railway station catering outlets, as well as Letheby and Christopher, a leading caterer at sporting and other events at venues such as Ascot and Glyndebourne.

Francis Mackay, Compass chief executive, is keen to exploit Travellers Fare brands such as Casey Jones and Upper Crust by taking them beyond the key travel locations they are already in. He said: "We see great scope for these brands. We intend both to strengthen and extend them to other areas of our present and future business activities."

Catering operating profits in the full year were £27.6 million, up 4.5 per cent. This is in spite of the recession

causing some contracts to disappear as factories and offices closed. To offset that, new contracts were pursued. Healthcare operating profits saw a rise of 7 per cent to £12.3 million. Overseas catering brought in £100,000.

Healthcare, mainly involved with running 15 private hospitals, saw good growth through consolidation in more mature establishments while building profits in hospitals acquired in 1991, Mr Mackay said. He sees scope for further growth because of the widespread moves towards hospital trusts and GP fundholding.

Compass is creating two new divisions that will concentrate on developing catering for healthcare and education establishments, a marketplace thought to have substantial growth possibilities that could go beyond £3 billion in value.



Mackay: hoping to expand

Clinton's finance team aims to reassure

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton was announcing his first major appointments yesterday, an economic team designed to reassure the financial world and dispel the Democrats' tax-and-spend image.

Lloyd Bentsen, the Senate finance committee's formidable 71-year-old chairman, was to be named Treasury secretary, signalling a determination to work constructively with Congress. The budget director was expected to be Leon Panetta, the House budget committee chairman whose passion is deficit reduction. Robert Rubin, a top investment banker, was to head the new policy co-ordinating Economic Security Council. Mr Clinton, who has pledged to focus

"like a laser beam" on America's economy and next week hosts a Little Rock economic summit, was also expected to name Roger Altman, another Wall Street investment banker, as Mr Bentsen's deputy, with important supporting roles for Laura Tyson, a 45-year-old Berkeley economist, and Alice Rivlin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office. Mr Bentsen and Mr Panetta, both moderates, have been intimately involved in all major economic legislation for the last decade and should considerably enhance the new administration's credibility.

Mr Bentsen beat George Bush for his Texas Senate seat in 1970 and shone as Michael Dukakis's 1988 running-mate, squashing Dan Quayle in the vice-presidential debate with the single line:

"Senator, you are no Jack Kennedy." Finance committee chairman he has supported greater fiscal encouragement for savings and investment. Critics contend he has championed deficit-widening tax breaks for the oil, gas and real estate industries, all big contributors to his campaigns, but his great attraction for Mr Clinton is his ability to persuade Congress to enact a recovery package.

Mr Panetta, a former Republican, should compensate for Mr Bentsen's lack of interest in deficit reduction, enabling Mr Clinton to pursue an early economic stimulation while credibly promising to attack the deficit later. Mr Panetta helped broker the 1990 budget deal, which lopped nearly \$500 billion from future spending and broke Mr Bush's "no new taxes" pledge.

Pilkington to sell lens maker after interims plummet

BY GEORGE SIVELL

PILKINGTON, the glass-maker, yesterday put Solis, its spectacle lens manufacturer, up for sale after revealing a fall in first-half profits from £50.6 million to £15.1 million.

The group, which fought off a bid from BTR five years ago, is paying a maintained 2.93p dividend for the six months to September 30. But the dividend will have to be paid out of reserves because earnings per share of 1p have shrunk to losses of 0.8p a share. The shares rose 3p to 87p yesterday.

Sir Antony Pilkington, the chairman, said of the Solis sale: "Recession has forced us to do this." Solis is valued in Pilkington's books at £105 million but City analysts expect it could fetch more than £200 million. They think it could help Pilkington through to the end of the recession and help to avert another dividend cut.

Last year's final dividend was cut from 7.57p to 3.07p,

making a total for the year of 6p, against 10.5p for the 12 months to March 1991. Some analysts criticise Pilkington for maintaining uncovered dividends. Sir Antony said, however: "It is our belief that prospects have improved, albeit in a patchy way. Conditions are not worse than in June, when we cut the final dividend."

Pilkington said the Solis disposal was being made to reduce borrowings. These rose in the first half from £659 million to £730 million, before counting in an extra £50 million of debt created by the impact of the falling pound on debt held in foreign currencies. Gearing is currently 65 per cent, against 56 per cent at the last year end. It is expected to fall slightly by March, before allowing for disposal proceeds from Solis.

Solis, which has its headquarters in Menlo Park, California, was acquired in 1979; it then had sales of £20

million. In the last full financial year, it made a trading profit of £15 million on sales of £155 million. In the latest half year, it made £10 million on sales of £85 million. Solis has more than 5,000 employees in 14 countries.

Yesterday, Pilkington said it had saved an annualised £50 million from costs over each of the past three years. About 1,500 employees were made redundant around the world in the first half; a similar number are expected to go in the second.

Pilkington says the pound's devaluation will have helped in Britain and that American automotive orders are forecast to rise by 18 per cent in the first quarter of 1993, year on year. The American residential market remains static. Germany is a concern, although residential orders have held up, especially in eastern Germany.

Temper, page 26



Dark glass Sir Antony Pilkington, left, and Roger Leverton, chief executive, said recession forced divestment

Eurotunnel shares hit by rift talk

BY MARTIN WALLER

A FRENCH press report of a rift in the negotiations between Eurotunnel and the group of contractors building the Channel tunnel sent the shares sharply lower at one time, before the tunnel operator denied any breakdown.

The shares later recovered to end 6p lower at 347p, after earlier falls of about 15p. But Eurotunnel's statement, accompanied by a refusal to comment from Transmanche-Link, the contractors' consortium, suggests the cost-overrun talks may be going through a difficult phase.

L'Agefi, the French financial daily, said the contractors had sent Eurotunnel a letter breaking off negotiations on November 30.

A statement from Eurotunnel later said: "In the light of correspondence and conversations between the parties since that date, Eurotunnel does not believe these reports are justified." Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, warned contractors in September that if the talks were not concluded within a few weeks there could be no settlement at all.

Holdings of shares fall to 9m

BY DEREK HARRIS

THE number of shareholders in Britain, boosted by privatisation issues, probably peaked at about 11 million people after the electricity companies were floated in 1990. Now, as short-term holders have fallen away, there are 9.26 million of them, according to a survey for ProShare, the body for wider share ownership.

That is more than treble the number of people holding shares in 1980, when equity holders stood at between 2.5 million and 3 million.

But not so many Sids, getting their first taste of share ownership from privatisation lotteries such as BT and British Gas, have gone on to more adventurous buying in the market. Only about 200,000, or 2 per cent of all shareholders, have turned into super-Sids by taking stakes in non-privatised companies.

The ordinary Sids, owning only privatised shares including TSB, are the biggest group of shareholders. There are about 5.7 million of them, or 62 per cent of shareholders.

Traditional sharebuyers number about 1.6 million people, or 18 per cent, of the shareholder population.

This emerges from a Mori survey for ProShare, the organisation set up to encourage wider share ownership. ProShare was launched with the backing of the Treasury, the London Stock Exchange and industry. Geoffrey Maddrell, ProShare's chief executive, admitted there was "a major task facing us if we are really to achieve our aim of creating widespread active involvement of individuals in the equities market".

Abbey National's free shares hand-out to customers at the time of its market launch created a distinct category of shareholders. The number of people owning Abbey National shares without their either buying them or any other type of share amount to about 800,000 or 8 per cent of all shareholders.

About 1 million people own shares only as a result of their employment or that of a relative.

Courtaulds wins ICI go-ahead

Courtaulds has received government clearance for the acquisition of ICI's aerospace and defence coatings business based in Germany, France and Britain.

The acquisition was announced on October 20 and completion is expected at the end of December. No fixed assets are to be acquired. In 1991 turnover of the business amounted to about £5.5 million.

The acquisition will form part of Courtaulds Aerospace, a supplier of products for the aerospace and defence industries in Europe, North America, the Far East and Australia.

Loss halved

Pressure on working capital as customers delayed payment and suppliers pressed for early payment, added to woes at Phoenix Timber, where a trading loss prevented the hoped-for reduction in borrowings. The pre-tax loss in the six months to September was halved to £533,000.

Stepping down

Robert Shepherd, the deputy chairman of Penfold who has recently undergone major heart surgery, is to retire from the board at the end of this month.

Graig approach

Graig Shipping, which specialises in bulk cargo trade, said it had been approached about a possible takeover offer. The shares leapt 38p to 113p.

Payout pegged

Booth Industries saw interim pre-tax profit reduced by two-thirds to £110,043 in the half year to September, but is maintaining the 0.7p interim.

Avon Rubber

The picture of Tony Mitchell, chief executive of Avon Rubber, which accompanied the report of Avon's profit recovery in yesterday's Business News (page 23) was mistakenly identified as being Lord Farnham, who is the chairman of Avon.

Government to stop union ballot funding

BY ROBERT MORGAN AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE government is to stop funding trade union ballots, and end assistance for training of union officials. Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, said last night.

In a Commons written reply, she said that the schemes, which cost £5.7 million last year, would be phased out over three years. Union leaders reacted with fury. They complained that the ballot money, amounting to £4 million last year, was being taken away just as the government was extending legal obligations on unions to ballot their membership before industrial action.

In addition, they regretted the loss of £1.7 million of assistance for training union officials, arguing that some of the training was in health and safety work, and counterbalanced assistance to companies for training managers.

Norman Willis, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, called the move "a

calculated blow designed to destroy state support for good union practice." The decision was "ideologically based and has been taken without even the pretence of consultation."

Both schemes will cease to operate from April 1, 1996. The ballot funding scheme was set up in 1980 to encourage the voluntary practice of secret balloting at a time when there were no statutory requirements for unions to ballot their members before calling strikes or electing leaders.

Since then the law had changed and secret ballots on most big issues are required by law. The scheme operates largely as a public subsidy and the government has therefore decided it should end.

The training grant goes back to 1976. It was intended to be used to teach union leaders how to carry out collective bargaining duties with a view to reducing the number of strikes.

Now we're out of our competitors' reach. And within everyone else's.



PS/1

The easy to use PC range continues to grow, with something for everyone's needs. New 386SX and 486 models, with built-in tutorials and productivity software. Suitable for home or business use - so easy that all it takes is five minutes, and you're in business.



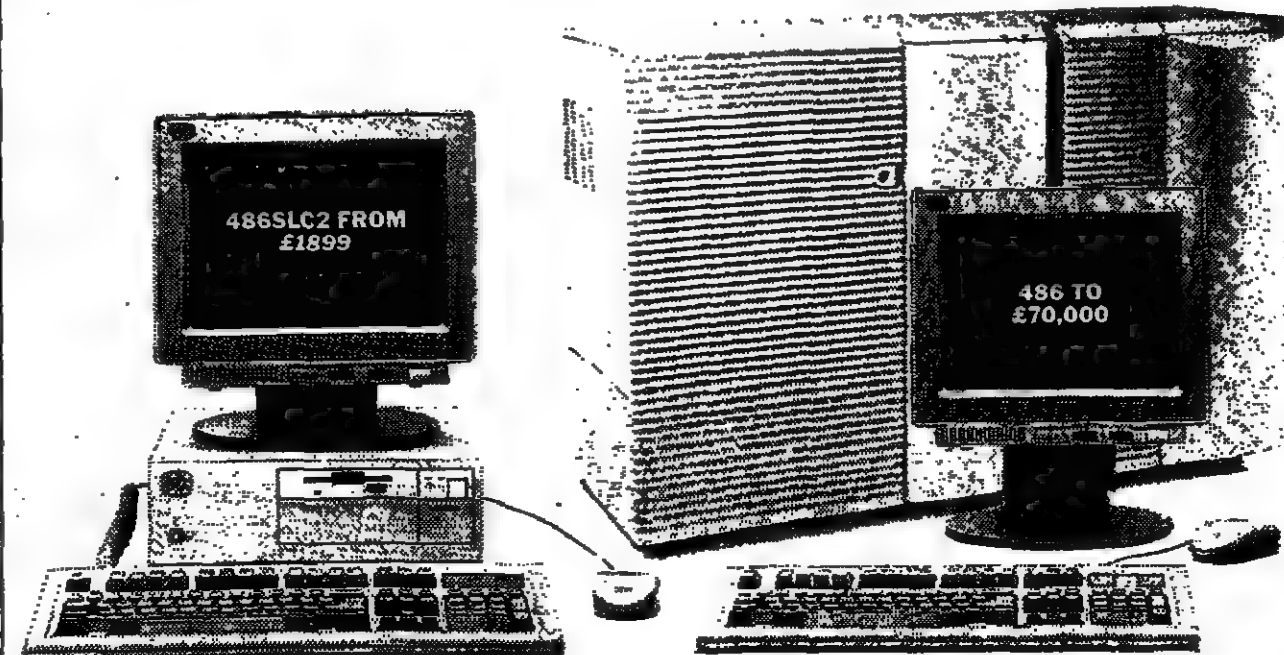
PS/ValuePoint

This brand new range offers great value and performance to match. The highly expandable IBM PS/VP is built to industry standard design, with no compromise on IBM quality and reliability. With over 25 models to choose from, why buy an IBM-compatible when you can have the real thing?



PS Notebooks

IBM's new family of computers for people going places. From the low priced 386SX, to outstanding 486SLC Notebooks. With longer battery life, removable disks, a unique cursor pointing device (goodbye to the mouse), and crisp monochrome or brilliant colour displays.



PS/2 Desktops and Servers

The PS/2 family delivers performance and quality second to none. The IBM PS/2 is the computer for serious business needs. Desktop machines offer superior ergonomics, stunning graphics, compatibility and upgradeability. And are built for ease of systems management. IBM PS/2 Servers offer the best reliability, performance and resilience in the industry. So whatever your requirements, you'll find a 486-based PS/2 to match.

With IBM's biggest personal systems announcement ever, introducing over forty new and enhanced products, there's no doubt who's leading the way in personal computing.

But with all these new models now available at more affordable prices, there's no doubt who the real winners are...our customers.

Every desktop computer comes with pre-loaded software (DOS or the all embracing IBM OS/2 operating system) and the support and reassurance of IBM's unique Helpware service. Which puts friendly and professional advice just a 'phone call away. **Helpware** 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

For your information pack on the new range of IBM Personal Systems, tick the appropriate box and send to: Penny Swift, IBM United Kingdom Limited, Freepost, 414 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5TF. Or call Penny Swift on 0800 181 182 during office hours. Please send me information on: PS/1 ☐ PS/VP ☐ Notebooks ☐ PS/2 Desktops ☐ PS/2 Servers ☐

Name Position Company T1112
Address
Postcode Telephone

All prices include colour display, keyboard, mouse and operating system software. Prices ex. VAT. Illustrated Notebook includes integral mouse display. All trademarks acknowledged.

Wise men scare money markets

Sterling's fall from grace this week has as much to do with taking profits and playing safe ahead of the EC summit in Edinburgh as anything else. But investors have a habit of looking for justification for their decisions and the one most often cited on Wednesday, when the pound fell sharply and swiftly, was the call from two of the Treasury's new independent economic advisors for a further 15 per cent devaluation of the pound, clearly at odds with the Chancellor's statement last week that he did not want sterling to fall further — repeated yesterday as sterling remained under pressure.

The views of these particular economists are by no means new but, just when financial markets were beginning to believe that rates may not even fall to 6 per cent, the mention of 5 per cent inevitably jolted their attention. The market's assumption seems to be that the Seven Wise Men will have real influence on policy and a key sentence in the Treasury's invitations to each of the seven suggests why this misapprehension has taken hold. Apart from supplementing the Treasury's internal forecasting of the economy, the members would "also be invited to comment on policy developments and to provide recommendations". That sounds like a laudable attempt to democratise policy-making but, after a day of discomfort on the financial markets, the Treasury has moved to distance itself from such perceptions.

Officials are now pointing out that the most important contribution of the panel would be its forecasting expertise, not its policy recommendations. These would be noted, but then they always have been. All this suggests that the panel simply provides a formal framework for advice and forecasts, both of which always been freely available to the Treasury which remains free to act on it or not. The crux of the matter is whether or not the wise men are to be policymakers in their own right or advisers chosen for their expertise in forecasting. To an extent the market has chosen to believe the former. The Treasury now appears to be encouraging the latter view. The truth will probably emerge somewhere in the middle.

Unhelpful offer

Stephen Littlechild's interim report on electricity contracts does no favours for Michael Heseltine's efforts to correct mistakes on pit closures through his energy review. The electricity regulator may thus demonstrate his independence. It is hard to see what else he achieves. The report finds that contracts signed for power from gas-fired stations were perfectly reasonable, at the time. This is an important caveat when it is plain that vital factors have changed, including big cuts in the price of coal. There are other unhelpful caveats. Mr Littlechild insists he can only compare contracts on offer, yet it appears that the distributors wanted long-term base load contracts from new suppliers who needed to construct new power stations but not from the coal generators, from whom power would be available whether or not there was a long-term contract. He comes up with high prices for coal-fired power stations because their power was not being bought as base load but for use only part of the time. The total cost therefore includes overhead charges to make the capacity available when it is not being used. This charge would disappear had the coal-fired power been considered for base-load power. Indeed, Professor Littlechild acknowledges that his review says virtually nothing about comparative costs. It is therefore useless as well as unhelpful.

Industry is struggling, property and shares have crashed. But the government has yet to prove that it can cope, reports Joanna Pitman

The financial mandarins who toil for the Japanese government's Economic Planning Agency have woken up to an unpleasant truth. Their job gets harder every day. For almost a year, grim-faced officials have been forced into a brave, some say foolhardy, defence of their 3.5 per cent forecast for economic growth for the current fiscal year, in the face of a growing barrage of negative statistics, wielded by sceptical private economists at home and impatient financial policy planners abroad.

Now running out of defensive ammunition, they are having to prepare for a reassessment of Japan's undoubtedly ailing economy. And they do not like what they see.

Haruhito Arai, a senior co-ordination bureau official, said: "We have stuck to our forecast of 3.5 per cent growth all this time because we thought the economy would recover during the current fiscal year. We did not expect such a sharp fall in share prices and real estate prices." He concedes that the economy has slowed down this year far more than the government expected. Figures released last week showed that it contracted by 0.4 per cent in the third quarter, or by an annualised 1.6 per cent.

Mr Arai said: "We were expecting a mild recovery this year... that was too optimistic. We are now not so optimistic on the strength of recovery and on its timing."

While the planning agency's climbdown has not yet been translated into a new forecast — officials are still doggedly clinging to 3.5 per cent — the change of tone signals a willingness to take more account of market perceptions and to consider an easing of fiscal policy, if Japan's already depressed business mood continues to plunge.

Private economic forecasters' responses to the government's apparent optimism range from polite demurrals to open derision. "The 3.5 per cent growth forecast is statistically impossible," said Chris Calderwood, an economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd in Tokyo. "We expect 1.6 per cent growth for fiscal 1992." Noboru Kawai, Morgan Stanley's chief economist, predicts 1.4 per cent. "The Economic Planning Agency has lost all credibility," he said. "We cannot believe it is still talking about 3.5 per cent growth." Nippon Life Insurance Research Institute has recently revised down its forecast from 3 to 1.6 per cent. If public and private forecasters are poles apart on their figures, they are united on their reasons for pessimism. All cite the lingering effects of the burst of the



Clouded sun: personal consumption, which accounts for 60 per cent of Japan's GNP, is sluggish

"bubble economy", the wrenching boom and bust cycle that corporate and financial Japan has experienced over the past five years.

The years of cheap finance, which artificially boosted real estate and share prices and encouraged unprecedented growth in corporate investment, are over. Share prices have fallen 60 per cent from their 1989 peak and trading volume has dropped by 90 per cent. The property market, likewise, entered a tailspin. Some central Tokyo prices are 60 per cent below their peak and many believe that urban prices have still further to fall.

With official assurances looking less and less convincing, most analysts do not expect business conditions to pick up for another six to nine months. Additional evidence of a delayed recovery and of negative market perceptions are likely to be contained in the Bank of Japan's quarterly survey of business conditions, to be published today.

The survey, called the *tanken*, is closely scrutinised as the leading barometer of business confidence. The December *tanken* is expected to show another marked deterioration in sentiment in the past three months. In the previous *tanken*, published in September, the leading

indicator dropped to minus 37, meaning that the percentage of manufacturers predicting worsening conditions outweighed by 37 per cent those who said conditions would improve.

At its peak, in 1989, the index rose as high as 55. Many economists expect the latest survey to show a drop to minus 42, a level that has not been seen since February 1976.

The great hope for a turnaround next year lies with the implementation of the government's much-trumpeted but long-awaited supplementary budget, announced last August. The budget bill currently lies on the table of the Diet (Japan's parliament), low on a political agenda that has been dominated for the past month by intra-party bickering over apportioning blame for a huge political corruption scandal.

The new fiscal package, worth a record ¥10,700 billion (£55 billion), will increase public spending by an amount equivalent to building the Channel tunnel five times and then a new terminal at Heathrow Airport with the spare change.

The rapid passage of the bill is critical to the economy. It is designed to boost domestic demand and partly

offset the collapse in private consumer demand and in capital spending that is threatening, according to private economists, to push economic growth well below 2 per cent for this fiscal year. At the time of the announcement, the government expressed hope that the package would boost the economy by 2.4 per cent in the 12 months from October.

Private sector economists have taken a different view. Bernard Siman, a senior analyst at Jardine Fleming Securities in Tokyo, believes the efficacy of the delayed package is in serious doubt. "The package will not contribute more than 1 per cent at most to economic growth for fiscal 1993," he said. "If the impact of the supplementary budget is to be measured in GNP growth, then we do not expect it to be very effective. It is too little too late."

Mr Siman is concerned that bureaucratic bottlenecks will impede efficient distribution of the new money and points out that of the ¥10,700 billion, only ¥6,000 billion will be channelled into measures that will contribute to economic growth. The remaining ¥4,700 billion will be spent on purchasing land and will involve redirecting existing funds from the postal savings system (one of the government's most important

funding sources) into low-interest lending programmes for small businesses.

Mr Kawai is more pessimistic. "The government's supplementary budget is grossly distorted and is maximising confusion. It simply involves front-loading of spending from next year's budget, accelerating public works investments in the first half of the year to artificially speed domestic demand. It will not have much impact." Many economists agree that growth stimulation will be small. Several analysts expect the government to have to prepare another supplementary budget next year.

In Japan, as in any other economy, the key to boosting growth is confidence. But Japan's business confidence is severely battered. Half-year corporate profits announced last month were down by an average of 40 per cent from a year earlier, and the Nikkei shares index is languishing, amid low trading volumes, around 16,000 to 17,000. Analysts say there is scant hope of a significant upturn for at least three months.

Sentiment plunged again with the publication of two new pieces of gloomy news: industrial production in October fell 2.6 per cent from a year earlier and the number of people looking for jobs exceeded the number of vacancies for the first time in more than four years. The latter statistic was interpreted as evidence that the slowdown is likely to affect millions of Japanese and delay any upswing in personal consumption, which accounts for almost 60 per cent of GNP and fuels economic regeneration.

If the Bank of Japan were now to weigh up the effects of the current lack of good cheer, it might be persuaded to ease credit further by cutting the discount rate again.

The benchmark rate was cut three times, from 6 per cent in mid-1991 to 4.5 per cent at the end of the year. On April 1, the central bank announced a further 75-point rate cut to 3.75 per cent, immediately after the government's decision to speed up public works spending in an early bid to stem the economy's slowdown. In late July, the bank again cut the discount rate to 3.25 per cent, just before the government began parading its ¥10,700 billion rescue package.

Both of this year's cuts failed to impress the stock market and were widely dismissed as "too little, too late". Beneath the public scoffing at the government's apparent miscalculations on the economy and the growing doubts over the efficacy of the latest "rescue" supplementary budget, there lies a growing sense that the government has allowed its much publicised "burst the bubble" plan to get out of hand.

The willingness of Yasushi Mieno, the governor of the Bank of Japan, to respond to the business mood will be crucial if Japan's economy is to turn the corner next year. The next two weeks will offer him a chance to ease credit and encourage his constituents to draw up their 1993 plans in a more cheerful mood.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

By royal appointment

SPECULATION about the main topic of conversation was the after the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh had lunch with their bankers, less than 24 hours after the announcement of the separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales. They arrived at Court & Co's head office in The Strand — bankers to the royal family since the reign of George III (1760-1820) — just a stone's throw from Buckingham Palace, at 12.15pm, were greeted by Sir David Money-Coutts, the bank chairman, given a tour of its premises and then moved swiftly into the ornate boardroom for luncheon, accompanied by a number of other directors, all of whom wear frock coats and are required to be clean shaven. "She has lunch there probably once a year, it just happened to be today," a spokesman said, refusing to elaborate further. The ever-discreet bank did disclose, however, that it refrained from activating its magnificent silver and glass egg-timer, as is traditional for all other boardroom lunches there. Placed in the centre of the dining table, it serves as a diplomatic way of encouraging guests to depart once the hour-long emptying process is complete. The Queen's schedule confirms that she was allocated slightly longer. Her next appointment, opening a police station at Charing Cross, was at 2.20pm, which means that she spent almost two hours with her money men.

Clarke's honour
DECEASED the name Bill Clarke



ring any bells? Clarke, now 70, City financial and industrial editor of *The Times* for ten years until 1966, was back in the Square Mile yesterday to receive an honorary doctorate from London Guildhall University — previously known as City of London Polytechnic. Clarke, who then spent ten years editing *The Banker* and now holds a number of non-executive directorships, was awarded it in recognition of his services to journalism and the City. One of his claims to fame is inventing the term "eurodollar".

Rule of thumb

SOME people claim that handwriting reveals almost everything about a person, but shareholders in the Papua New Guinea concern Kare Puga Development Corporation (in receivership), which in association with CRA, Australia's mining giant, is interested in a mining venture in the hills of PNG, face a particular problem if they wish to pursue this concept. Their directors have issued a statement after a PNG court ruling over land rights, and have "signed" it not with their names but with

their thumb prints, identified as "his mark". One Agiru Deyabe has a particularly small smudge mark, while Malinji Tag has an extraordinarily large one. The court, nevertheless, ruled in Kare Puga's favour.

King of the road

SKILFUL driving won over aggression when Neil Payne, a fund manager with AMP Investment Management — in a division once known as Pearl Assurance — swapped his Renault 19 car for a go-kart and took on 49 other clients and staff of Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker. Payne, 30, described as "a class driver" by those who watched him win all six of his races, was said to have been considerably less aggressive in his tactics than Stephen Heaps, of Schroders, who came second overall. "The ability to overtake on the inside of the track, obviously practised on numerous occasions on the M25, was a distinct advantage," said Michael Stranks, of Henderson Crosthwaite, who estimated that he came about twentieth. Payne has generously donated his prize, a colour television, to the National Children's Homes.

SMALL comfort for Rosehaugh, in receivership since November 30, but not enough to salvage it. The Broadgate project in the City of London, owned by Stanhope Developments — half of whose shares are owned by Rosehaugh — has won the Silver Jubilee Cup award from the Royal Town Planning Institute for the best planning achievement.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

The advantage of volunteer advisers

From Mr E. H. Salmon
Sir, At the Prince's Youth Business Trust, we were extremely interested to read in *Business News* (December 10) about the volunteer advisers helping art organisations to develop their business sense.

So convinced are we that one of the best ways of helping new businesses is to appoint a volunteer adviser that we no longer give grants or loans to would-be entrepreneurs unless they agree to the appointment of such an adviser.

There is no doubt that this is one of the primary reasons why an independent survey conducted by P-E International for the employment department found that 66 per cent of the PYBT-supported businesses were still trading after three years — a very much higher figure than for new businesses generally.

We have a team of 4,500 volunteers giving advice to young people throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but we are, of course, always in need of more as we are helping more than

3,000 young people to start up each year.

Not only do the businesses gain from this scheme, but the volunteers report enormous job satisfaction in being found in helping the hard working young man or woman to launch new business at this time of recession.

Directors of multi-national companies find that it brings them down to earth with a bump and puts them in touch with grassroots enterprise once more, the retired volunteer feels that he is doing something really worthwhile and making use of the skills he learnt while working and the middle manager advisers find that the enthusiasm of the youthful young man or woman is infectious and rubs off on them and their business activities.

Yours faithfully,
E. H. SALMON
(Director of Human Resources)
The Prince's Youth Business Trust,
5th floor,
5 Cleveland Place, SW1.

Larger companies and prompt payment

From N. Brothers
Sir, As a small business adviser within a local enterprise agency I often these days have to advise small businesses who have unfortunately run into problems of cash flow. These are frequently caused through slow or delayed payments against outstanding accounts and quite often involve both large companies and organisations.

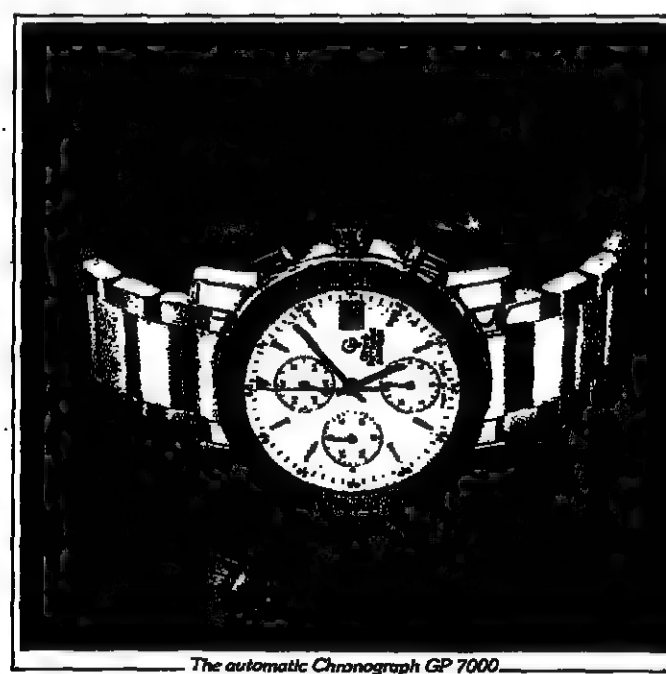
The CBI are to be commended for printing a list of companies who responded to their campaign for a code of prompt payment practice.

Many large companies/organisations are listed as having signed and agreed to adhere to the good practice of paying promptly. They fully deserve

our acknowledgement and support for their responsible action. However, this list also highlights the many large companies which are noticeable by their absence.

It is very disappointing, maybe significant, to see so many of the FT-SE 100 companies not listed, so failing to set a good example of good business practice.

As large PLC companies one should expect an example to be shown by seeing them actively supporting this CBI initiative by signing, as by their absence it begs the question of "Whose Cash"? Yours faithfully,
N. Brothers,
7 Mayflower Drive, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey.



The automatic Chronograph GP 7000.

This chronograph has a mechanical, selfwinding movement. Its waterproof case is available in a variety of combinations, such as steel, steel and yellow or pink metal or silver with pink metal as well as in 18 ct yellow or pink gold. The face comes in a wide range of colours and shows the hours, minutes, seconds and date — plus the total of the hours and minutes in the chronograph mode. The bracelets come in steel, steel and yellow or pink metal, 18 ct gold or in exclusive hand-sewn leather.

Girard-Perregaux

Manufacture de montres d'exception depuis 1791



Watches of Switzerland

THE SHOP FOR ALL TIME

Heseltine expects early success in Gatt negotiations

By COLIN NARBOROUGH
WORLD TRADE
CORRESPONDENT

CONTINUED protests from France over the farm trade deal between Brussels and Washington pose no serious threat to a successful conclusion of the world trade talks, according to Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary.

In an interview with *The Times* on the eve of the European Community summit in Edinburgh, he said the dialogue between France and its Community partners was continuing and that he had seen nothing official to suggest that French objections would derail the reopened negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Indeed, Mr Heseltine appeared to be in little doubt that the marathon Uruguay round

Michael Heseltine is confident the Uruguay round of the Gatt is set for a successful outcome, despite French reservations, giving a boost to world trade

negotiations were set for an early and successful outcome. Recent developments had opened up that prospect "more realistically than at any time during the past six years", he said.

France failed to stop the Gatt negotiations proceeding, despite putting up a fierce fight over the transatlantic deal struck in November that limits subsidised farm exports. The summit agenda provides for only limited discussion of the Gatt question, reflecting efforts to reduce the chances of France being forced into a showdown.

Mr Heseltine said Com-

munity foreign, trade and agriculture ministers had "clearly concluded" last Monday to allow the Community to proceed with the Gatt negotiations. Trade diplomats this week conducted informal negotiations at Gatt's Geneva headquarters.

Mr Heseltine emphasised John Major's contribution to reviving the Gatt round, stalled since last year by the row between America and the EC over farm goods. He said it seemed clear that since the emergency summit in Birmingham in October, the Community had been determined to proceed with the Uruguay round.

"The prize of a Gatt round successfully concluded is urgent and enormous," Mr Heseltine said. He believes the best way to attain that goal would be to reach agreement by the end of this year, allowing details to be cleared up early next year.

France still insists that EC concessions to the Americans on farm exports must be offset by rewards in other areas, such as market access and financial services, but Mr Heseltine clearly expects the final agreement to be close to the draft set drawn up last December by Arthur Dunkel, Gatt's director-general. He said Britain saw a "very clear advantage" in open trade.

There were areas in which Britain had a special commitment, such as Caribbean banana production and protection of intellectual property rights. Overall, however, it would benefit from lower tariffs. Free trade in services, included in the Gatt for the first time, offered special scope for British firms. Estimates suggest that a Gatt deal could lift world trade in services by 10 per cent.

Lonrho maintains its air of mystery

By GRAHAM SEABRIGHT
Outsiders have never been quite sure whether Tiny Rowland's Lonrho was a treasure chest or a can of worms. The group has had such a bad image in the City for so long that its parts have been widely assumed to be worth much more than the group's stock market value. Yet it has not faced a full takeover bid.

Lonrho's own accounts put the value of its assets at £1.33 billion at the end of September 1991. That is equivalent to 204p per share against a current market price around 75p. Before some of the latest bouts of bad news, some City analysts reckoned the assets could realise £3 a share net of the group's hefty debts.

Yet there has been no rush to buy. Even the latest cash-raising plan has attracted little enthusiasm, although it will inject at least £85 million via a rights issue at above market price and raises a reported £124 million, well above book value, from the sale of VAG, the Volkswagen and Audi concession for which the franchise was up for renewal.

Several speculators have set up camp outside the company, only to retire under fire from Mr Rowland's financial archers. Alan Bond, the Australian venture capitalist, was the only one to prepare a serious assault, but it became evident that he needed Lonrho's balance sheet to shore up his own shaky empire.

When Lord Hanson took a look, he decided that Lonrho depended too much on myriad African businesses and that the good relations Mr Rowland has nurtured with various African governments made him irreplaceable. This appears to have been a bigger factor than the weight of overseas earnings, unattractive to a group, such as Hanson, that already had a problem with advance corporation tax on its dividends.

In the City, Mr Rowland's dominance has increasingly been viewed negatively, though he created Lonrho from unpromising beginnings. This has little to do with Mr Rowland's age.

Controversy has dogged the group ever since Sir Edward Heath, as prime



Company man: Rowland created today's Lonrho and gave it a siege mentality

minister, damned some overseas payments as the unacceptable face of capitalism. Twenty years ago, a boardroom battle that became a courtroom slanging match left Mr Rowland triumphant as the private shareholders' darling. But it led to the departure of conventional non-executive directors and made enemies in important City parlours. More recently, Mr Rowland's long-running battle with the Fayed family exasperated the City.

Until recently, the group's communications with the City and the media reflected its siege mentality. Distrust therefore extends to Lonrho's financial structure. Analysts rely on its annual accounts for their information more than for almost any other big company.

These accounts have shown that although Lonrho has paid handsome dividends, it is not good at generating cash from operations. Cash comes from judicious trading of assets. Important non-African businesses are sold more years, often for a good medium-term profit, but debt has built up with little sign of how the tide might be reversed.

On paper, the group seemed well placed for a recession it claimed to have anticipated, thanks to its expanding African mining interests, especially Western Platinum. In fact, Lonrho's results deteriorated alarmingly in the latest three half years, evidently to management's surprise.

Profits in Britain, essential to avoid a catastrophic cash ratio, crumbled away. On Lonrho's own estimate for the

year to September, earnings before extraordinary gains appear to be only £6 million, against a 1988-9 peak of £165 million. Operations appear to have generated net cash of only about £20 million before capital spending of £200 million.

Assets have been sold fast, and Libyan money has been brought into the British hotel business, to keep borrowings within bounds. Sales of British assets such as VAG and the group's Scottish newspapers, however necessary, will only make future tax problems worse. Dividends have been cut sharply, yet there is an imbalance in Lonrho's financial structure.

Neither the latest cash injection, nor the putative arrival of Dieter Bock's trading talents, will do much to correct it.

Smaller brewers bubble in flat market

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TWO small brewers have demonstrated resilience in the face of a falling beer market, although prospects for the new year remain uncertain in the licensed trade.

Fuller Smith & Turner, in West London, advanced from £3.61 million to £3.76 million before tax in the six months to September 30, and the dividend advances from 2.25p to 2.4p. Anthony Fuller, the chairman, said sales of Fuller's beer brands had risen by 9 per cent in a difficult market but profits had still been severely affected by recession.

Brand sales were helped by a 39 per cent increase in free trade draught ale volumes. Sales in Fuller's own estate were down while those of other brewers' products were up by 8 per cent. Mr Fuller said that was to be expected, as the company stopped brewing lager last year.

The brewer does not expect the same rapid advance in free trade volumes this year but is confident of further growth.

Expansion of the Chiswick brewery was on target. Mr Fuller said, and the brewery was producing at record levels. This year's profits would depend on the Christmas trade and the strength of any economic recovery.

Eldridge, Pope, the West Country brewer, saw taxable profits increase from £1.1 million to £1.6 million in the year to September 30, though much of the improvement was due to one-off factors and lower interest costs. A final dividend of 1.94p pushes up the total from 2.64p to 3.25p.

At the operating level, profits were up by 12 per cent to £3.49 million, despite depressed trade in July and August, said Christopher Pope, the chairman.

The company is writing down the value of its estate by an average of 15 per cent. In total, £9.4 million is being written down and charged to revaluation reserve. Mr Pope said the prospect was of a gradual recovery at best.

County NatWest quits Japanese equities

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

COUNTY NatWest is closing its Japanese equities operations, with immediate effect. It will cease dealing in shares and share index futures at the Tokyo stock exchange and Osaka securities exchange and is currently in discussions with the two exchanges about what to do with its exchange memberships.

About 70 of County NatWest's 75 staff will be dismissed. The final size of the firm will depend on adjustments within National Westminster Group's 220-member operations in Japan, said Kevin Jameson, country manager. The decision does not affect County NatWest's fixed-income operations in Japan or its group equities operations in America and Australia.

While other foreign securities firms have pulled out of the Japanese stock market,

this is the first time an exchange member has withdrawn completely from Japanese equities. The decision is due to a review of County NatWest's global equity business rather than the Japanese market's three-year slump, Mr Jameson said.

The status of County NatWest's brokerage licences is also under discussion, although the firm expects to be using them in its fixed-income operations. The National Westminster group's banking and capital market business in Japan is profitable and growing and is not affected by the withdrawal from equities, said Mr Jameson.

County NatWest Japan was established in 1986, when many foreign brokers set up shop in Tokyo to take advantage of a roaring bull market and cash-rich investors.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS



CONNOLLY
ESTABLISHED 1878
LEATHER TANNERS & CURRIERS

EXPORT SALES MANAGER LEATHER INDUSTRY

Connolly Leather Ltd., leading manufacturers of Upholstery Leather for the Automobile and Furniture Industries, are looking for an Export Sales Manager, reporting directly to the Export Sales Director.

Any applicant must be fluent in French and German. Office organisation and Export Sales experience are essential. If you feel you have the ability and experience for this job, please send a comprehensive C.V. quoting current salary to: The Personnel Manager, Connolly Leather Ltd., Wendle Bank, Wembley, London SW19 1DW.

MERCHANT BANKING INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONAL REVIEW

LONDON £25,000 + MORTGAGE SUBSIDY

Our client is a highly respected US investment bank with a strong international presence and a solid record for innovation.

Following recent restructuring and the promotion of team members to Controlship positions, they now require additional resources for their International Review Division.

Essentially project based, key responsibilities will include the review of key level controls, key profit earning areas and operating procedures, concentrating on treasury and derivative products and private and investment banking.

Applicants should be recently qualified ACA, aged 28 and from a top firm. Exposure to treasury banking products is highly desirable and fluency in a second European language would be useful but not essential. Progression to a Controlship is likely within 18 months to two years.

For further information, please call David Chasley on 0444 416636 or write to the address below.

HEATHFIELD HARGREAVES

Chen of House, 6th Floor, 100, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH
Tel: 0444 416616 Fax: 0444 416612

THE TIMES INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Appear every Friday

in Section 2 of

The Times.

To advertise your

position in this

section please call

the Recruitment

Team on:

071 481 1066

or fax your copy on:

071 481 9313

LEGAL ASSISTANT (with fluent Russian) Excellent Salary & Benefits

Busy American law firm needs a legal assistant to work as part of a team on international financial transactions. The position will involve work in the finance area and occasionally on business transactions involving Russia and Russian law. The suitable candidate will be a graduate with an interest in international finance, fluent in Russian with the ability to translate to and from English/Russian. This is a permanent position which requires commitment and a willingness to work overtime when necessary. Typing ability essential; knowledge of WordPerfect and/or Lotus an advantage. Please call Concordia at 0711 638 5291

Box Number
replies should be
addressed to:-

Box.....

The Times

P.O. Box 484

1 Virginia Street

Wapping London

E1 9DD

Come Together With ITC

Are you young and flexible?
Are you an experienced paint sprayer with a diploma?

Are you interested in a temporary job in Hamburg/Germany?

We, the ITC, are looking for paint sprayers of all kinds. Housing will be provided.

If you are interested in a well-paid job, do not miss this opportunity and act now!

Send your application to:

ITC Industrial Technical
Consultants GmbH
Neser Wall 75
2000 Hamburg 36
Germany

7,000 Vacancies EVERY week

The Career Exchange computer matches job seekers with 7,000+ new vacancies within the area of the M25 (all professions, all levels) every week.

A two day executive job search seminar enhances job hunting skills, and includes CV preparation.

Only £100 (paid by instalments if required) - refunded in full if you do not find work.

Consider the costs of unemployment and call 071 515 1280.



OVERSEAS JOBS EXPRESS

More jobs • More choice • More often

The newspaper with the BIGGEST selection of worldwide vacancies
Trade & Technical • Professional • Contract
Working Holidays • Student • Seasonal • Unskilled
Published every 2 weeks. Jobs £15 per 9 months

Or, for FREE information pack, send large SAE or 2 x 10p stamps to:
OVERSEAS JOBS EXPRESS, PO Box 22, Brighton BN1 1UX.
Phone 01273 446528 or 24 hour credit card line 0273 446523

Interim net assets slip at 3i

By DEREK HARRIS

NET assets were cut 6.4 per cent to £1.188 billion in the first half at 3i, the venture capital group that has delayed flotation until at least the second part of next year. However, dividend income, badly hit in the previous six months, was up 4.5 per cent in the six months to September, compared with the previous first half. The interim was held at 3.3p.

There was a 6.5 per cent drop in net asset value per share - to 503p a share from 538p - which Alan Wheatley, 3i's chairman, blamed on the "persistently difficult economic environment".

One factor was the write-down in the valuation of a loan to Isosceles, the troubled supermarket group. There was also the effects of decline in the French stock market and a 3 per cent fall in the value of the UK equity portfolio. Additionally, net provisions were 10 per cent up on the same period a year before at £46.9 million.

Realisation profits have slowed since the second half of last year. Mr Wheatley said: "We would expect activity in the utilised sector to pick up as the economy recovers." Investments by 3i include stakes in about 4,000 smaller British companies. Investments overall in the first half amounted to £200 million, up on the previous first half but well below the £283 million of the second half to last March during a temporary surge in confidence about economic prospects.

Mr Wheatley said the level of new investment had eased again.

SA steel venture launched

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN JOHANNESBURG

GENCOR, the South African mining giant and its rival, Anglo American, have announced the official go-ahead for a 3,500 million rand (£737 million) joint venture, aimed at creating the sixth-biggest stainless steel industry in the world.

Brian Gilbertson, chairman of Gencor, admitted that it was not perhaps the best of times to launch such a venture, while the developed world was still in the worst recession since the second world war, while ferro-alloy prices were deeply depressed, and while the political uncertainty in South Africa had never been so severe. But he said that it was "an act of faith in the future of South Africa".

It was also not the most strikingly favourable omen to conduct the launch - at the Johannesburg Country Club - with a stainless steel

DeLorean car as its principal exhibit. The project has been much delayed, no doubt by the uncertainties charted by Mr Gilbertson.

Had it been held up a little longer, it would possibly have had to be renamed, for the Columbus Joint Venture, complete with a logo of a Christopher Columbus's sailing ship, would have missed the five hundredth anniversary year of the discovery of America.

But while he acknowledged that the project was "not a dripping rose", he said it had convinced six conservative boards of directors that it would make a satisfactory return on their investments.

The announcement of the site clearance contract will be made this month, and work will begin at Middelburg in Transvaal next month. Commissioning of the first plant - the cold mill - is expected at

the beginning of 1995. The hot mill will be commissioned in the second quarter of 1995, and the steel plant itself in the second half of the year.

The construction phase will create jobs for 5,000 employees, but by the time the plants are up and running only about a hundred extra positions are expected. Fred Boshoff, the chief executive of the Columbus project, suggested there would be opportunities for many further jobs downstream, as South African companies were able to take advantage of the local product.

Leslie Boyd, the chairman of the joint venture, who is deputy chairman of Anglo (the chairmanship will rotate between the two principals biennially) announced that the government's Industrial Development Corporation would also be putting up a third share of the venture.

Confident British Land prospers

By OUR CITY STAFF



Riblat: shares up

SHARES in British Land rose 5p to 175p yesterday after the property group revealed a half-year dividend increase of 10.14 per cent to 2.28p out of earnings up 5.6 per cent to 3.8p. Pre-tax profits were 11.8 per cent better at £11.4 million, reflecting an increase of 16.7 per cent in net rents to £54.4 million in the six months ending September 30. The pre-tax figure excludes £1 million of capitalised interest (£600,000 million). The interest charge rose from £38.5 million to £45.9 million. British Land, which has made a virtue out of buying property in the

downturn, said empty properties were held to 2.5 per cent of the portfolio. It does not reveal assets values at the half-year stage. John Riblat, the chairman, said: "The improvement in property yields which we are now seeing has reduced the flow of suitable investment propositions, but we have made some new purchases." About £76 million has been spent on new investments and a further £13 million on updating the portfolio. Mr Riblat says: "I have not altered the view expressed in June that the direct property market has now seen the worst of the recession."

NEWS IN BRIEF

LYNX HDGS (final)
Pre-tax: £115,000
EPS: 1.34p (2.88p)
Div: 0.75p, mfg 1p

WHESSE (final)
Pre-tax: £8.3m (£7.4m)
EPS: 28.3p (24.3p)
Div: 5.8p, mfg 8p

WIDNEY (final)
Pre-tax: £313,000 loss
EPS: 0.87p loss
Div: Nil

STEWART & WRIGHT (int)
Pre-tax: £182,813
EPS: 155.75p
Div: Nil (nil)

ARLEN (int)
Pre-tax: £150,000
EPS: Nil (2.21p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)

Profits last time were £224,000 and the dividend was 1p. Turnover rose from £4.05m to £7.5m. Mergers and acquisitions being considered

Total dividend was 7.2p last time. Turnover up from £57.8m to £79.7m. Provision of £600,000 made against project engineering division

Loss was £512,000 last time, with 1.24p loss per share and no dividend. Group ahead of budget in current year

Profit was £173,052 last time with earnings of 146.72p a share. Rental income rose slightly while costs fell

NOVO GRP (int)
Pre-tax: £553,300
EPS: 2.4p (3.8p)
Div: 0.3p (nil)

HUNTER SAPHIR (int)
Pre-tax: £1m (£1.8m)
EPS: 1.3p (2.56p)
Div: 0.5p (1p)

EVE GRP (int)
Pre-tax: £2.6m (£1.8m)
EPS: 18.3p (12.8p)
Div: 2.7p (2.7p)

API GRP (final)
Pre-tax: £3.85m
EPS: 12.8p (12.8p)
Div: 7.5p (6.75p)

E.R.F. (HLDGS) (int)
Pre-tax: £2.7m loss
EPS: 30.14p loss
Div: Nil (2p)

Profit last time was £529,500. Turnover eased from £6.82m to £5.97m after disposals. Higher final dividend promised

Turnover slipped from £108.4m to £100.8m. Profits last time included consequential loss insurance of £1.6m. Disposals completed

Turnover rose from £19.2m to £27.6m. Results helped by seasonal factors and the timing of contract completions

There was a loss of £470,000 last time. Turnover was unchanged at £62m. Balance sheet strong with no net borrowings

Enquiries for new commercial vehicles has increased after cuts in interest rates. More exceptional costs likely in second half

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total, and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gains or Loss
1	Grand Met	Breweries	
2	Low & Bonar	Industrial	
3	Sege Co	Electrical	
4	VSEL	Industrial	
5	Br Aerospace	Motors/Air	
6	Parrell Elec	Electrical	
7	Woolsey	Industrial	
8	Refuge	Insurance	
9	Pharmax	Building/Rd	
10	Mid	Electrical	
11	Sainsbury J	Food	
12	Tamson Cols	Breweries	
13	Rockitt Cdr	Industrial	
14	Chia Co	Paper/Print	
15	Adams	Building/Rd	
16	East Midlands	Electricity	
17	Tipbark	Transport	
18	Greenall's Grp	Breweries	
19	Johns Math	Industrial	
20	Betterware	Drugs/Pharm	
21	Hammerston	Property	
22	Electromech	Electrical	
23	Telegraph	Newspaper/Pub	
24	Money Docks	Transport	
25	Greiner	Property	
26	Sun Alliance	Insurance	
27	Hepworth	Industrial	
28	Zambis Copper	Mining	
29	Cowie J	Motors/Air	
30	Trinity Int	Newspaper/Pub	
31	PWS	Insurance	
32	Williams Hldg	Industrial	
33	Honda Motor	Motors/Air	
34	Hutch Wmnp	Business Serv	
35	Alcan	Industrial	
36	Alcan Elec	Electricity	
37	BPA	Building/Rd	
38	Alfred Test	Textiles	
39	Br Land	Property	
40	Mays	Electrical	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES
If you have ticked off your eight share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 55272 between 10.00am and 5.00pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Two winners equally share yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £4,000. They are Miss S. Scott, Hornsey, London N8 and Mrs J. McWilliams, Westbourne, Dorset.

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
382	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
383	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
384	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
385	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
386	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
387	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
388	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
389	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
390	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
391	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
392	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
393	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
394	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
395	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
396	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
397	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
398	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
399	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3
400	ABN-Amro	3.75	4.8	8.3

BREWERIES

No	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
101	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
102	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
103	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
104	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
105	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
106	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
107	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
108	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
109	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
110	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
111	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
112	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
113	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
114	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
115	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
116	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
117	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
118	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
119	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
120	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3

BUILDING, ROADS

No	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
121	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
122	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
123	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
124	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
125	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
126	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
127	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
128	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
129	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
130	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
131	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
132	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
133	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
134	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
135	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
136	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
137	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
138	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
139	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
140	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3

ELECTRICITY

No	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
141	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
142	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
143	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
144	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
145	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
146	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
147	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
148	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
149	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
150	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
151	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
152	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
153	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
154	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
155	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
156	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
157	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
158	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
159	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3
160	Adams	1.10	4.8	8.3

Shares lose ground

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 30. Dealings end today. Settlement day Monday. Settlement day December 31. Forward buy/sell are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992						1992						1992							
High		Low		Company		Price	Net	Yld	P/E	High		Low		Company		Price	Net	Yld	P/E
21	8	Hambrick	9	0.3	6.3	31	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
22	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
23	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
24	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
25	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
26	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
27	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
28	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
29	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
30	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
31	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
32	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
33	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
34	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
35	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
36	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
37	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
38	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
39	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
40	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
41	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
42	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
43	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
44	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
45	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
46	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
47	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
48	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
49	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
50	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
51	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
52	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
53	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
54	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
55	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
56	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
57	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
58	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
59	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
60	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
61	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
62	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
63	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
64	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
65	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
66	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
67	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
68	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
69	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
70	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
71	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
72	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
73	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
74	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
75	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
76	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
77	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
78	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
79	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
80	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
81	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
82	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
83	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
84	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
85	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
86	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
87	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
88	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
89	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
90	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
91	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
92	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
93	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
94	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
95	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
96	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
97	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
98	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
99	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
100	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
101	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
102	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
103	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
104	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
105	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
106	8	Scott Corp.	9	0.2	5.3	33	1	2.1	6.0	74	66	Harold	54	1.1	7.8	17	1.8	2.5	
107	8																		

INFOTECH

As hospitals face cuts, the NHS is to spend £20 million on a controversial computer network. Michael Cross reports

The chips are down

FUJITSU announced this week that it was the first company in the world to develop a working memory chip, capable of holding 256 million bits of information.

Japan's other giants of semi-conductor technology vigorously denied the claim, saying they, too, had similar technologies, but simply had not announced them yet.

A 256 megabit chip would be able to hold the equivalent of 1,000 newspaper pages on a sliver of silicon the size of a fingernail.

Channel dial

CUSTOMERS for BT's public database service, Prestel, can now access certain areas of the French Télétel database. Accessing the French services costs 35p a minute, and the information available ranges from prices on the Paris stock exchange to details of French hotels and restaurants. French telephone directories are also available at 15p a minute.

More than six million people in France have Minitel terminals that can access Télétel, compared to fewer than 100,000 users of Prestel.

Watch out

A NEW device could automatically gather information on what is watched on television — by getting the viewers to wear it. The "pocket people meter" is a carry-around device, no larger than an electronic pager, which would detect codes which broadcasters would transmit in the soundtracks of programmes, according to its developers, Arbitron.

The device is to be tested in the United States over the next two years.

NHS plays numbers game with patients

Tom Sackville, the junior health minister, walked into a political minefield yesterday when he unveiled a scheme to computerise the entire National Health Service. The plan is known as the Information Management and Technology Strategy for the NHS.

The government proposes issuing new, computer-readable NHS numbers and building up a computer database of every individual in the country, in order to plan the population's health needs and arrange contracts for treatment.

Another part of the strategy is to link computers in hospitals, doctors' surgeries and health authorities into a single national network.

The minister also announced the launch of a long-term project to replace existing medical records — consisting of doctors' notes, nurses' care plans and images such as x-ray films — with all-electronic records.

The aim is to ensure that NHS hospitals throughout the United Kingdom and other state medical organisations, which between them spend about £350 million a year on computers, all keep in step with the move towards integration. Scotland already has its own information management plan.

The Department of Health's information management group, which drew up the new scheme, also hope it will force suppliers to conform to "open systems", computing which means hardware and software can be interchanged re-

gardless of manufacturer. "No compliance, no contracts," one official has said.

The main purpose is to underpin the reforms which last year split the NHS into an "internal market" of organisations buying and selling care. This would not work without a way of tracing patients through the system, and with it a method of sending the bill for treatment to the right health authority.

Mr Sackville, speaking to around 600 health service managers at a conference in Birmingham, stressed the importance of information technology in providing "patient-centred care".

"If the patient does not benefit, then we will have wasted our time and a great deal of money," he said.

The minister added that the new strategy should increase efficiency in the health service. The goal was to radically reduce the number of paper messages that circulate the health service each year, which at present amount to something like one billion.

However, a health service computer network is likely to cause controversy for two reasons. First, it represents a substantial investment at a time when hospitals throughout the country have announced that they are cancelling operations in order to meet cash limits.

The project to introduce new NHS numbers will cost about £20 million. The NHS already has a dismal reputation for getting value for money from its computers. Mr Sackville referred to "some recent

'If patients do not benefit, we will have wasted a great deal of money'



Race against time: but the introduction of a large scale computer system caused widespread chaos to London's ambulance service

examples of large systems which have seriously failed."

In June this year, Wessex Regional Health Authority admitted that half the £43 million it had spent on a region-wide computer network had gone to waste.

More seriously, the London Ambulance Service last month suspended the use of a new computer

despatch system after allegations by union officials that the delays it caused led to some deaths.

Part of the package announced yesterday includes a set of guidelines designed to ensure that computers give value for money. They will require any hospital wishing to spend more than £1 million on systems to present a business case for

the investment, including procedures for evaluating the technology after installation.

The second source of controversy surrounding the proposed system is likely to concern the use — or abuse — of a national database of confidential information.

Again, the minister attempted to head off fears by announcing new guidelines to prevent information on computers falling into the wrong hands. But organisations such as the General Medical Services Council, which represents GPs, and the government's Data Protection Registrar, have already sounded alarms about the NHS's use of computers.

One issue is the new network of patient registers, called Administrative Registers, which will begin pilot trials in spring. Although these will contain no clinical data, they will list addresses of individuals and names of clinics with which they are seeking treatment.

Some GPs are worried that information given in good faith by patients to family doctors will be passed on to other organisations, putting confidentiality at risk. For

instance, such leaks could reveal the whereabouts of women seeking refuge from violent husbands.

The Department of Health has already dropped one idea which alarmed the civil liberties pressure group, Liberty. Officials had originally intended the new numbers to carry dates of birth, as Scottish NHS numbers do now. The new "personal identifiers" are vital because the NHS at present has some two dozen different formats of number.

But although the new number, which will be introduced in 1995, will follow the Scottish pattern of 10 digits, officials said yesterday that it would contain no personal data. They said that patients will not need to know their numbers to seek NHS treatment. The officials also stressed that no organisations outside the health service would use the new numbers.

However, such assurances may do little to quell suspicions that the government is using the much-loved NHS to introduce national identity numbers by stealth.



Paper chase: medical records are to be stored electronically

Here's looking at you, vid

PC software may at last put pictures to the phone's words

The videophone has been a technological twinkle in the eyes of hundreds of inventors and science-fiction writers for the past 50 years or more, but it is the personal computer that may finally offer the way to make this dream come true.

Experimental videophones have been around for more than a decade. They all suffered from two big problems — image quality and transmission speed. Prototype videophones showed flickering images at either end, and voices were seldom synchronised.

This was because the videophone really needed to be not much larger than an existing telephone, but getting high-quality displays that could fit in that space was a tall order.

The biggest problem was transmission speed. Most of the videophone systems produced in recent years have only been able to show between 10 and 20 image frames a second. At least 30 frames a second is required to achieve "full-motion" video.

The telecommunications industry thought it had solved part of the problem by moving to the advanced integrated service digital networks, or ISDN: information sent out over a telephone line could be digital, just like that handled by computers and CD players.

When information is stored in digital format, it can be more easily manipulated by systems that incorporate computer processing power. Although these have been



Telling a thousand words: AT & T use a PC and codec for video communications

helpful, ISDN availability is not universal and is not the only key to the solution.

To get the kind of performance and quality necessary to make digital videophone technology an affordable reality, a good deal of computer processing power is needed to shuffle bits around on the screen. This is where the personal computer comes in.

High-quality, flat-screen, colour displays and data compression/decompression software is also needed, the latter required to squeeze the amount of information to be sent over the line and to expand it again when it has been received.

Personal computers do all

these things successfully. Processing power is now approaching that of the mini- and mainframe computer of only a few years ago. High-quality, colour flat-screen displays are in common use in "notebook" computers, while compression software is becoming an everyday part of software libraries.

An important link in the videophone and personal computer chain came last month when Microsoft and Intel announced a package called Video for Windows, for creating, editing and incorporating digital video into personal computer applications.

The key to this is what both the computer and telecommunications industries call a codec — the code for compressing and decompressing video information. Video for Windows includes three codecs, which offer a range of compression algorithms that start with the ability to show simple computer animations moving to full-motion, colour video. The codec used depends on how powerful the computer is.

It is now possible to exchange data between two

computers at very high speeds using standard computer modems over ordinary telephone lines or ISDN switches. By turning full-motion video into just another piece of digital data, Video for Windows opens up the way for personal computers to sit at the heart of a videophone system.

Live video signals from an ordinary video camera can be sent down a telephone line without the need for any additional equipment. Sound, meanwhile, would take its regular route on a shared data/voice line, quite common in many ISDN systems.

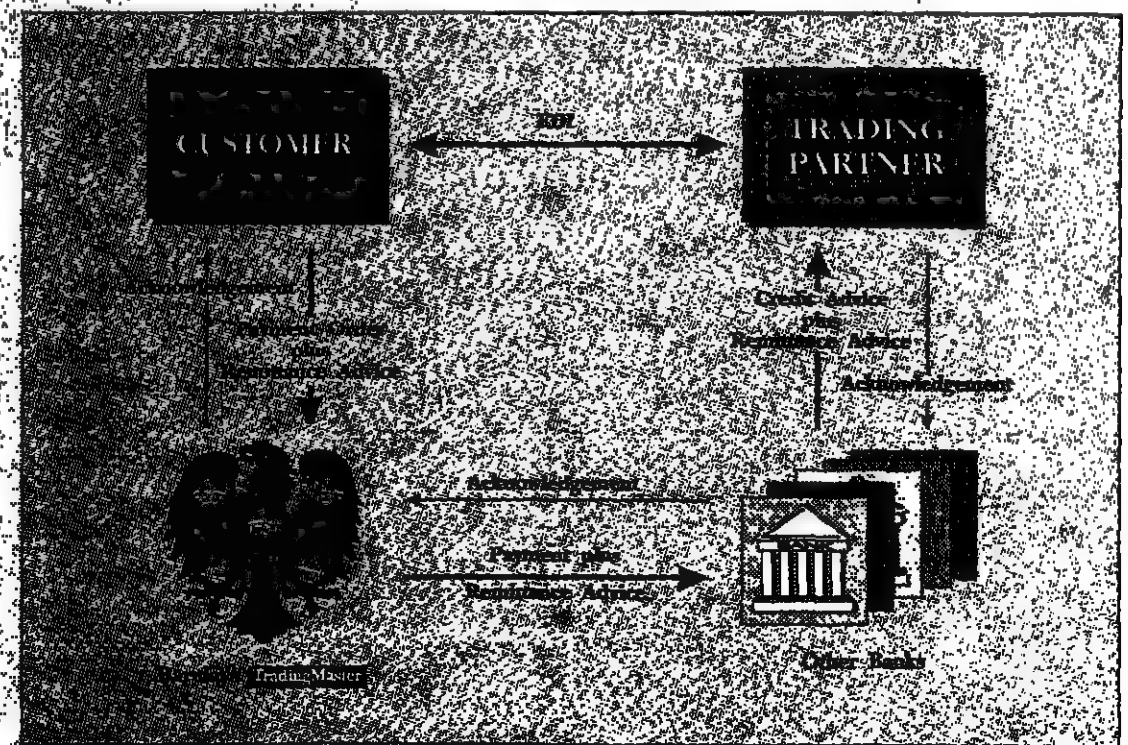
The link between personal computers and videophones is not necessarily the way that telecommunications companies would like the market to evolve. Cost will be an important factor. Video for Windows, for example, costs only £140 and can be used on most modern desktop PCs.

Although the cost of a video camera and video communications software will add to that, the production volumes for such products are likely to make them available for only a small premium over the cost of a PC. And that could change for ever the way you look at them.

GEORGE WHEELWRIGHT

Barclays TradingMaster

Tomorrow's financial EDI system available today.



As the leading UK bank, in the field of EDI, Barclays offers the benefits of "Paperless Trading" to corporate customers, by providing a flexible, effective service, designed to fulfil any financial EDI requirement. Barclays TradingMaster enables complete electronic settlement, accurately and economically, allowing substantial cost savings in your business.

By interfacing to any Value Added Network (VAN) and having compatibility with many EDI software vendors, Barclays TradingMaster couldn't be easier to implement.

Barclays TradingMaster - Business Methodology - in Practice.

For more information on Barclays TradingMaster, contact Tim Earles at

Barclays EDI Department on: 0203 532642.

YOU'RE
BETTER OFF
TALKING TO
BARCLAYS

Morse prices on Compaq

Contura 3/20 40Mb... £295 £325. Contura 3/25 60Mb... £1295 £1095
Contura 3/20 84Mb, MS Windows 3.1, trackball... £1295 £1095
Contura 3/25C, color 120Mb/40Mb Windows 3.1, trackball... £1295 £1750
LTE Lite 80Mb/40Mb... £2295 £1750. LTE Lite 25/C 80Mb... £2690
Desktop 386 40Mb... £1245 £245. ProLinea 3/25C, 80Mb... £595
ProLinea 486 4/33 80Mb hard disk/40Mb RAM... £1295 £1095
*Display option. Prices subject to VAT at 12.5%.

MORSE

SHOWROOM SALES
78 High Holborn, London WC1. 071-831 0644

Small can still be profitable

Replacing larger machines with desktop computers may solve problems, says Jane Bird

Bob Pamplin is seldom woken by a phone call in the middle of the night these days. As systems manager for Bupa Health Screening, he is the one who has to get out of bed when a security officer spots a problem with one of the computers.

But since Bupa replaced its large-scale machines with a network of desktop personal computers, there have been few problems. "I no longer get called in the small hours or at weekends to be told the air-conditioning has gone in one of the machine rooms and asked what I am going to do about it," Mr Pamplin says.

Improved reliability has been a bonus of Bupa's decision to throw out its old large machines in favour of the latest powerful and versatile personal computers — a process known as downsizing. Like many other computer users that have downsized, the main aim was to save time, space and money.

Downsizing has been made possible because silicon chips are doubling in power every 18 months. Personal computers already outstrip the power of mainframes of the 1970s and, by the year 2000, they will be 1,000 times more powerful than today. They have the further advantage that they conform to industry standards so that a wide range of pre-packaged software is available.

Bupa decided to investigate downsizing in the late 1980s, when its four large and ageing minicomputers and three smaller ones needed replacing. At that time it was spending about £500,000 a year on maintenance, including the cost of a five-man in-house support team and five software development staff on contract.

Moreover, the only word-processing software available to run on these machines was far too sophisticated for Bupa's needs.

"It was overkill. Our word-processing requirements were simple. We only needed fairly basic functions to send out reminder letters and patient reports," Mr Pamplin says.

There was also a problem of space. The minicomputers were housed in three air-conditioned rooms with raised floors and cavities in the ceiling for cables and ventilation. Bupa was in the process



Enthusiast: Bob Pamplin, systems manager at Bupa, says he "no longer gets called in the small hours or at weekends"

of amalgamating its previously separated male and female screening units into one building near London's Kings Cross station. There was not enough space for special-purpose machine rooms.

After scouring the personal computer market in early 1990, Bupa chose a network of some 130 personal computers controlled by three file servers. The total cost was about £250,000, compared with approximately £2 million for an updated minicomputer system. Maintenance costs were less than one tenth their previous level.

Mr Pamplin, whose background is in mainframes, says: "We've had a few troubles with disc drives, but nowhere near the problems we had on the big machines".

Fewer staff are needed. The contract team has gone and three of Bupa's staff were laid off. "Previously, we had the task of ensuring that everyone's files had backup, whereas now individuals control their own data and are responsible

for making their own security copies."

Spare parts, though seldom needed, can be obtained more quickly and easier than before. "Parts for the old minis were very expensive and took a long time if they had to be shipped from the United States," he says.

Bupa is extending the network throughout its 30 United Kingdom

'Small functional groups will increasingly develop their own applications quickly'

screening centres. By next autumn, it plans to have around 400 personal computers nationwide.

Another advantage of systems based on personal computers is that new applications can be created much more easily than on the larger machines. Andy Smith, product marketing manager at Siemens Nixdorf, argues that today's personal computers have

software development tools that can be used by the growing number of sophisticated computer users without organisations. "Small functional groups will increasingly develop their own applications faster and less expensively than large, centralised project teams can," he says.

Another benefit is that, by putting power on individual's desktops, responsibility is devolved to staff, cutting out middle managers, and reducing organisational hierarchies.

However, mainframe suppliers dispute the cost-savings, arguing that centralisation can be more

economic in the long-term. According to Xephon, a mainframe consultancy, the cost per user of a mainframe-based system is £5,000 to £10,000 over five years compared with £9,400 to £15,500 for personal computers and workstations. Cost-savings are only made where the organisation is small, Xephon says.

A similar view is held by Peter

Slavid, corporate systems business manager at ICL, which sells all sizes of hardware from mainframes to personal computers. "Downsizing may have become the computer buzzword of the 1990s, but those corporate users who followed the trend could find that they have made an expensive mistake," he says.

He says some organisations which claim downsizing is much cheaper may be overlooking the time spent doing backups or system administration. Other costs include running the two systems in parallel while transferring from the old, and breaking up databases so that they can be shared on a personal computer network.

Meanwhile, large centralised systems are being redesigned to emulate the economies of distributed personal computer networks by running multiple processors in parallel.

Mr Slavid maintains that organisations should undertake downsizing as part of a complete strategy rethink, rather than solely for the cost advantages.

From a crawl to a canter

The reputation of file servers for sluggishness may be a thing of the past

Both the hardware manufacturers and software developers of personal computers are trying hard to persuade corporate computer users to replace their tried and true minicomputer and mainframe systems with networks of personal computers.

But personal computer networks at the moment are typically used by only a dozen machines or so — although PC suppliers say they can handle much more and will continue to increase capacity.

For years minicomputer manufacturers have argued that no matter how fast and powerful personal computers become, they can never really replace minicomputers because they were not designed to run large "departmental" applications.

One of the big technological impediments was supposed to be that personal computers cannot handle large volumes of information. Personal computers that act as central storage

Advocates of downsizing suggest that it can provide benefits in both cost and time, allowing companies to use and integrate personal computer packages, which they could not do with a mainframe. PC companies now argue that "performance degradation" on high throughput networks has become a thing of the past.

What could help is a new breed of personal computer — the multiprocessor PC — that will supposedly eliminate information bottlenecks by allowing each of its processors to be carrying out different tasks simultaneously.

But critics argue that it is not the number of processors or the hardware design in a PC that counts — it is what you can do with them. And given that the most popular PC operating systems — MS-DOS and the Apple Macintosh — were designed exclusively for use on single processor computers, many experts argue they are not up to the job, no matter how many processors are in the system.

It is this question that is crucial to the downsizing debate. Old-guard

supporters of minicomputer operating systems say that comparing PCs with minicomputers is a bit like comparing the family car with a double decker bus.

You might be able to shoe-horn the power of a double decker bus engine into the engine compartment of a large car, but it would in no way be equipped to handle the job of a bus.

On the other hand, champions of the multiprocessor PC argue that the appearance of new and more powerful PC operating systems will change all that.

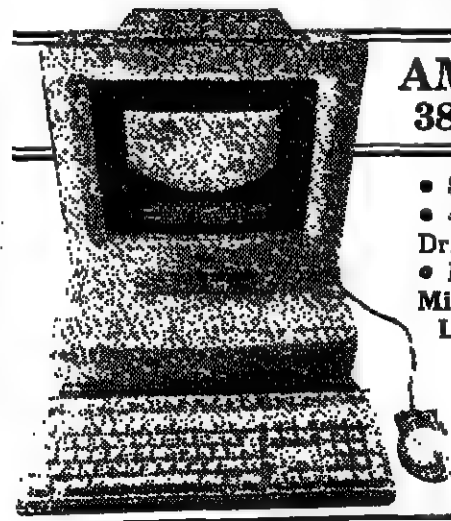
But for most MS-DOS applications that currently run on personal computers, there will be little difference in running on a system with two multiprocessors and four. The real benefits will not start to be felt until users begin running software optimised for use under these new operating systems.

GEORGE WHEELWRIGHT

"Did it work? The answer is yes"

WILDING OFFERS THE ULTIMATE.

(The very best in quality, value and service).



AMBRA SPRINTA PLUS 386SX 25MHz COMPUTER

- 80386SX 25MHz Processor • 2Mb RAM
- 40Mb Hard Disk • 3.5" 1.44 Mb Floppy Disk Drive • 14" VGA Colour Monitor • Mouse
- Includes pre-loaded software: Microsoft Windows 3.1, Works for Windows, Lemmings

£595 + VAT
(£699.13 inc VAT)

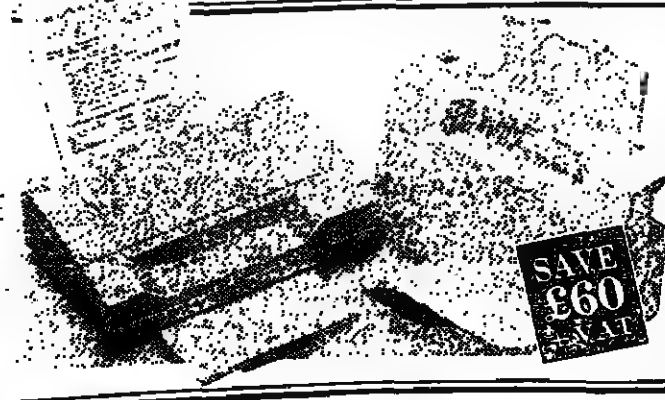
- 12 month on-site warranty
- Free 0800 Helpline

AMSTRAD PC7286 FAMILY PACK

- 80286 16MHz Processor • 1Mb RAM • 40Mb Hard Disk • 3.5" 1.44 Mb Floppy Disk Drive • 14" VGA Colour Monitor • Mouse
- Joystick • Sound card and Speakers • Includes pre-loaded software: MS-DOS 5.0, Lotus Works 3.0, 6 Games: Jimmy White's Whirlwind Snooker, Steel Empire, Elite Plus, F-15 Strike Eagle II, Links and Prince of Persia
- 12 month on-site warranty

WAS £680 + VAT NOW **£599 + VAT** (£703.83 inc VAT)

EPSON LQ-100 PRINTER



- 24 Pin Dot Matrix Printer • Up to 250 cps draft quality printing
- Up to 90 cps Near Letter Quality printing
- A4 Paper Cassette holding 52 sheets

WAS £229 + VAT NOW **£169 + VAT**
(£198.58 inc VAT)

- 12 month warranty

PRICE PROMISE
If you can buy this cheaper in a local retail shop within 7 days of purchase we will refund the difference

When it comes to business machines Wilding offer a great deal more. Unbeatable offers, a unique price promise and a helpful professional service. See these great offers only at Wilding. But hurry, they're only available whilst stocks last.

Also available by mail order. Tel: 0708 457441 Fax: 0708 471975

WILDING

BUSINESS MACHINE CENTRES

When computers talk the night away

Supercomputers, the champion racehorses of data processing, are losing their temperamental image and their exotic price tags. It is the highest end of the market where, for some applications, even these traditionally expensive machines may start to offer an economically-priced alternative to the mainframe.

Major business users such as banks and finance houses have long wanted to use supercomputers to analyse and predict the movements of markets or economies, in much the same way as the Meteorological Office uses them to predict the weather.

Until now, however, the multi-million pound cost has deterred commercial buyers, leaving supercomputers in the hands of engineers at such places as British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce, where they are used to design aircraft and engines, and scientists at the large research laboratories.

Several factors are driving the cost of supercomputers down. One is simply the traditional supercomputer manufacturers trying to broaden their market with budget machines, but these have had limited success in the commercial market, largely because of the lack of reasonably-priced software.

The technology causing most excitement is parallel processing. Conventional computers run a program one step at a time, and efforts to speed the process up by developing ever faster chips are running up against barriers set by the laws of physics. Parallel processing divides a task into many more manageable parts, each of which are dealt with by a separate processor.

Parallel processing can be very fast indeed, but still poses enormous problems in deciding how to distribute the tasks among the processors, and how to handle things that all the processors need to share, such as memory space and the database.

An additional problem crops up when tasks are linked, so a processor has to

Ordinary microprocessors are being linked to form "supercomputers"



Professor Yakup Pakar: working on parallel processors

wait for another processor to finish a task before it can continue. The messages being sent between processors can bring the whole process to a standstill if not handled with care.

The complex problems that must be sorted out before any but the simplest task can be put on parallel processing machines have, once again, restricted their use to academic and research establishments with such skills readily available.

Several developments recently are aimed at making parallel processing machines cheaper and simpler to program.

One development is the use of clusters of workstations, either to program and control the parallel processor and to deal with the output, or to link together to form the array itself.

This approach has been taken by Equus, a software

system for parallel processors being developed by Professor Yakup Pakar, first at the Polytechnic of Central London and now at Queen Mary and Westfield College, part of the University of London.

The aim of Equus is to automate the difficult tasks of parallel processing, such as the allocation of work between processors, so that the user sees the system as a relatively straightforward program.

A typical parallel processing system using Equus would consist of an array of processors linked in parallel with a number of workstations networked to it. Unlike many parallel arrays, the system uses ordinary microprocessors as found in personal computers, so the cost can be relatively low.

Equus was originally developed as part of a government-funded research programme, and though an attempt was

made to market the system two years ago, little came of it. "The market was not ready for parallel processing," Professor Pakar says. "We are looking for interest again as the market is now a lot more mature."

The American supercomputer firm, Convex, sells both traditional sequential machines and a clustered workstation system in collaboration with Hewlett Packard. Last month, Convex announced an entry level supercomputer based on a very fast gallium arsenide chip, priced at around £500,000 — small change in the multi-million pound world of most supercomputers.

Ultimately, it may be possible for banks and other financial institutions to obtain supercomputing power relatively cheaply by exploiting their personal computers. Such "building-wide" computers would link up the power from all the desktop machines at night.

It is theoretically possible to regard every personal computer on a network as a node of a parallel computer, but the speed of the network could very quickly limit the speed available if the application requires many messages to be sent between processors.

One application that is already using personal computers as supercomputers is the animation industry in the US. To animate a simple video sequence can take even a powerful workstation half an hour for every frame. Now, several animation studios link up all their personal computers overnight.

Animation "video farms" of personal computers have shown that parallel processing can be practical. It is probably only a matter of time before those employed in banking, the stock market, insurance and many other areas will come in to work to be presented with up-to-date economic forecasts, generated overnight by the "supercomputer".

CHRIS PARTRIDGE

The time is right for the personal touch

An increasing number of companies are looking to rid themselves of expensive mainframe computers and move down in the size of machine they use to run their business. Personal computers and work stations are now so powerful they can carry out many of the tasks formerly handled by much larger computers.

By cutting back on this central resource, companies are able, theoretically at least, to save thousands of pounds in the running costs of maintenance, staff and software development.

In the longer term, however, these costs may be transferred into another environment and not eliminated altogether. Some companies are recognising that a business's computing requirements may well be split to take advantage of both tried-and-tested and newer environments. The mainframe, or its much smaller cousin, the minicomputer, need not be scrapped. Instead, applications can be taken off them, piece by piece.

The Institute of Directors, for example, has decided to keep its IBM minicomputer which it accepts is good at running essential computing applications such as order processing and the provision of an essential service for the IOD's busy business centre.

But it is prohibitively expensive and functionally inadequate for the institute's

**Cutting computers
down to size is
increasingly popular
for business, says
Clive Couldwell**

management computing requirements. Hence, the IOD has decided to downsize one portion of its activities — a members' information system — on to personal computers so that managers can access certain types of information when and how they like, using much friendlier pictorial-based software, such as Windows.

Executives appreciated the value of information held within their computer system — five years of detailed profile information on members which could be used to compare behavioural patterns against potential demand for the institute's other business services. But the information was as good as useless because they could not get at it.

"They'd ask one of the computer team to deliver a report which then took a long time to produce, came out on paper and didn't give them what they wanted," says

Tim Dempsey, the institute's deputy manager of computing.

The solution was to bypass the computing department altogether, and duplicate the minicomputer's store of information on personal computers, providing about 20 executives with quick and direct access to it, using a software package called Forest and Trees.

"Although it would have been possible to link the personal computers directly into the minicomputer, it was a costly alternative at the time," Mr Dempsey says. "When we originally looked at this, we found we'd have needed to double the minicomputer's capacity just to accommodate these managerial queries."

Estimates predicted that would have cost more than £40,000, compared with the personal computer option at £10,000.

Recent research carried out by the software services group, Hoskyns, suggests that downsizing activity has decreased recently. However, more than 20 per cent of switches planned from IBM, ICL and Bull machines are now likely to be to PC-based systems, compared with 13 per cent over the last three years.

The study, based on interviews with more than 250 computer managers, found most claiming performance criteria as the major reason for downsizing. Cost and technology obsolescence are way behind in second place. And the criteria



Problems downsized: Tim Dempsey, of the Institute of Directors, which opted for personal computers

given for moving from one brand of computer environment and its software applications to another — a process referred to as "migration" — varied widely.

A lack of flexibility and potential for upgrading, as well as the difficulty of communicating between software applications, were the most common reasons

given for changing computers. Pressure on space, and the running costs normally associated with mainframe installations, also prompted users to move. Migration from one computer to another was also seen as just an inevitable step to keep up with rapidly changing and expanding technology.

Despite the general perception that

downsizing is a path to cost-effective computing, more than one-third of respondents were unable to quantify the savings associated with moving from one type of computing environment to another.

For those that could quantify costs, some saved millions, while others had actually incurred additional costs.

In computers, size is not everything

Avoid the pitfalls of downsizing your system for the wrong reasons



Rigged results: the oil industry is suited to downsizing

Downsizing a computer operation may not always be the way of saving money that some would have us believe.

Even those manufacturers that are enthusiastic advocates of downsizing are no longer arguing wholeheartedly that the process will save massive amounts of money.

Steve Jordan, consultancy manager for Hewlett Packard, one of the main proponents of downsizing, believes there are two types of customers adopting the new techniques. The first are those who focus simply on cost and wish to reduce the amount spent on computing; the second type are those companies that foresee business benefits coming from new applications which would take too long to develop and implement on old-style mainframes.

Two sectors well ahead in downsizing are the oil industry and financial institutions. "The oil industry is constantly changing. Companies can no longer go out into the North Sea and just drill for oil," said Mr Jordan. The driving factors toward downsizing from mainframe to smaller machines in the oil industry are the recession, the stabilisation of the oil prices and the organisational changes these conditions have imposed.

Although downsizing and open systems, of which the Unix operating system is the most common variant, are not synonymous, there is an increasing tendency among customers to develop or purchase "open" applications when they downsize, which can be switched easily between different brands of hardware.

Those companies, like ICL and Hewlett Packard, which are heavily committed to Unix will inevitably be strong con-

tenders when customers are considering open systems if they are changing their existing hardware.

But commercial Unix hardware, although it has steadily improved over the years, is still seen to be limited in many respects and not suitable for some business applications. And a report from the American company, Forrester Research, suggests that in some cases, downsizing may actually increase computing expense.

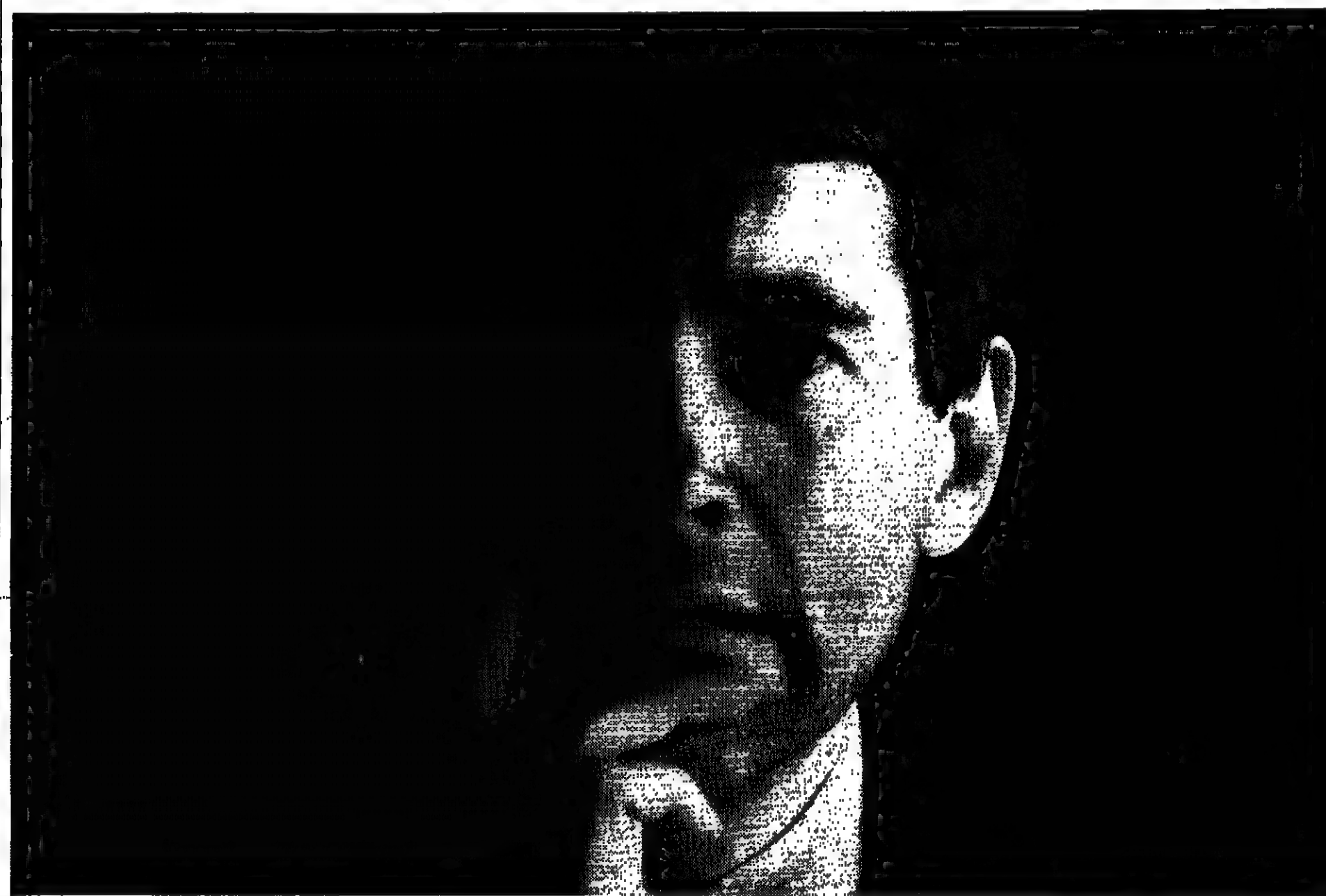
It suggests that the support and maintenance costs of a local area network, one of the favoured options for mainframe users looking to downsize, can sometimes result in costs greater than that of the original system.

Although the latest generation of computers are undoubtedly more powerful than their predecessors, Nigel Martin, director of open systems at Hoskyns, believes that users should weigh up their

options carefully before taking the decision to downsize. "Most people's mistake is to buy some modern technology and not to think about the cost of 'migration'," he said. He believes that many users will migrate from older systems to newer ones, many of them smaller but equally powerful to the machines on which they have been running their applications. But the primary driving force behind the moves will be pressure from competitors, who are increasingly taking advantage of the large number of new packaged applications to gain a business advantage.

"While many large organisations will downsize, they should do so because there is a real business benefit," Mr Martin said.

SEAN HALLAHAN



Without the free Guide to Network Servers, you could be a couple of gigabytes short of a 128-bit interleaved memory bus.

In a complicated and ever-changing marketplace, it's hard to keep up with all the latest developments. Especially if you're entering the server market for the first time.

That's where our free booklet, The Guide to Network Servers, can help.

The Guide cuts through the clutter to bring you all you need to know about servers from entry level to the most sophisticated on the market.

As the acknowledged leader in server technology, we can tell you how the latest advances could affect your buying decision — and how choosing the right server can protect your network investment in the years to come.

The Guide will also introduce you to two new stars in our server range, as well as provide you with a useful A to Z of technical



When you've got to get it right — get the Guide.

terms, so you don't have to spend unnecessary time decoding your specifications. So what will it be? Built in manageability? Increased fault tolerance? Multiple drive arrays?

Don't be a couple of gigabytes short.

Order your FREE Guide today. Just call us on

0800 444 044

or fill in and return the coupon below to:

Compaq Computer Ltd,

FREEPOST, 19 Worple Road, London SW19 4YY.

COMPAQ

PLEASE SEND ME THE FREE GUIDE TO NETWORK SERVERS.

Mr/Mrs/Ms (Initials) _____

Surname _____

Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

How many people does your company employ? _____

Compaq Computer Ltd, FREEPOST, 19 Worple Road, London SW19 4YY

THEATRE page 36

Barrie Rutter portrays
Richard III as a tortoise-
like Tyke in Northern
Broadside's production

ARTS

MUSIC page 37

Radio 3's Nicholas
Kenyon explains the
imminent merger of two
Scottish orchestras



VISUAL ART: New sculpture from Tony Cragg at the Lisson; rediscovered Italian treasures at the Accademia Italiana

Surprises come in many forms

Richard Cork admires an exhibition of work by one of Britain's most resourceful and rewarding sculptors

Unlike so many contemporary artists, who exploit well-worn formulae to the point of mind-numbing predictability, Tony Cragg has always thrived on diversity and surprise. His new show at the Lisson Gallery ambushes visitors with a series of adroit, densely considered coups de théâtre. But Cragg's talent for unexpectedness, both of form and material, should not be confused with sensationalism or novelty-grubbing. As we move through the rooms, interrogating the five large works on display, an underlying continuity of thought and feeling gradually unites them all.

Even from the street, Cragg's sculpture has the ability to arouse immediate curiosity. Seen through the window, and ranged around an aptly sunken floor beneath pavement-level, *Mental Picture* resembles the remains of a mysterious ruin. Eleven broken pieces of juressic limestone stand or lie in a roughly circular formation. From certain angles, and especially from the room's entrance, they look like fragments of masonry which once belonged to an ancient building. Although gashed with violent reds and oranges on the most jagged sides, their predominant paleness evokes a desert setting.

These objects turn out to harbour remarkably intact images. Highly polished, from which they have been hewn, most of their forms resemble vessels. Whether circular or cylindrical, they seem to underline the importance of water-tainers.

Another stone, acting as a cradle to a pestle and mortar, emphasises the equally indelible need for food. And all these smoothly finished utensils cluster round an enlarged arving of a brain partially bedded in the central block of stone.

The labyrinthine cells run-

ning all over this lump of cerebral matter may appear formidable, but cracks and holes pepper the apex of the brain. They confirm the general air of decay, and make the surrounding vessels look as useless. Far from growing out of the stones, they seem petrified and redundant.

A similar mood hangs over the seemingly very different two-part sculpture in the next room. Made entirely of steel, *Terris Novallis* belongs to the era of mechanised invention rather than the stone age.

Taking as his starting-point a pair of 18th-century surveying-instruments for measuring the landscape, Cragg expands them to an immense and ominous size. They preside over the main gallery like a couple of siege-battery guns.

obvious in the work displayed nearby, *Taking and Giving* is dominated by a tall, dark green cupboard. The shelves exposed within might reasonably be expected to contain hooks. So indeed they do; but instead of occupying their conventional places, the hooks swarm crazily all over the interior.

They spill onto the outside as well, spreading like an irresistible invasion across the broom propped against the cupboard, the log hanging from the side, and the child's wheelbarrow attached vertically to the back. Nor does the epidemic stop there. The hooks also smother a smaller shelving unit, heaped with logs and a drawer stuck to its exterior like a lipset. Then they pepper some more logs stacked pell-mell with a locked chest on slats in front of the cupboard.

The overall effect is ambiguous. On one level, Cragg has taken the violence implicit in the simple act of driving hooks in wood to a manic extreme. Every surface seems assailed by the sharpness of metal. But on another, a wider basket were attacked by rampant plastic tubing in an earlier work called *George and the Dragon*.

But the hailstorm of hooks also has a tonic effect. They run like an electrical discharge through the inert objects, enlivening their dormancy with dancing slivers of light.

Cragg has never been frightened of deploying wit, and enjoys catching us unaware with juxtapositions so disparate that they generate entirely new identities. The clash, in *Taking and Giving*, between attack and revivification is engineered with impish guile. It freshens our response to materials so mundane that we usually take them for granted.

But his high spirits are more

'Cragg freshens our response to materials that we usually take for granted'

one pointing forward and the other, based on a theodolite, raised to the ceiling.

Rust spatters and streaks their surfaces, suggesting exposure to the weather and neglect. But they retain a formidable presence, symbolising the urge to control as well as chart the territory they survey. And the limbs raised — swivelling so weirdly from the base of the theodolite — indicate just how sinister these instruments really are.

Cragg is not a lugubrious artist, however. Absurdity as well as menace runs through *Terris Novallis*, above all in the incongruous spectacle of machines resting on these bizarre anatomical fragments. They could almost be the invention of some demented furniture designer, and Cragg clearly relishes their almost surreal oddity.

But his high spirits are more



Tony Cragg's *Bromide Figures*, 1992: banal objects are transformed, and their inherent strangeness revealed as though for the first time

strangeness revealed as though for the first time. Nowhere more delicately than in *Bromide Figures*, an elaborate multi-part sculpture in the upstairs gallery.

With great nimbleness, Cragg builds up an unpromising array of ugly glass goblets, bottles, flasks and bowls into a cluster of stacked, turret-like forms. Varnished with orange shellac, they should look as jaded as cheap bric-a-brac discoloured by years of exposure to cigarette smoke in a pub. But against all the odds, they end up as fantastical as a fairy-tale palace capped by minarets.

Either inverted or upright, globular or elongated, cut or striped, they balance on each other with the agility of circus acrobats. Holes puncture some of their surfaces, hinting at fragility. Only a touch would upset their equilibrium and bring them smashing to the ground.

Vulnerability adds to their appeal, whereas the other sculpture in the upstairs room

seems utterly unbreakable. Cragg is adept at varying the exhibits in his shows, engineering contrasts so ingenious that the eye is never wearied.

Where *Bromide Figures* is intricate, and climbs in an easily assailable upwards direction, *Emergence* lies heavily and darkly on its side. Secure in the solidity of bronze, this ample recumbent form could hardly be more impregnable.

But the paradox is that it appears to derive, like several of his major earlier bronzes, from a glass retort. Before

entering art college in 1968, Cragg spent a couple of years working as a technician in a laboratory at the National Rubber Producers' Research Association. The experience may have left him with a lasting respect for even the most humdrum utensils, and an awareness that "scientific" implements can possess a poetic dimension as well.

In *Emergence*, a retort has undergone a dramatic metamorphosis. Apart from enlarging it to monumental dimensions, and exchanging

glass for bronze, Cragg has tipped it over so that the black behemoth spreads horizontally across the floor.

There is nothing complacent about this bulky presence, though. An aperture runs along most of its body, disclosing a deep cavity within. And round the other side, where the form swells with an organic ripeness reminiscent of breasts or buttocks, it begins to rise from the ground.

The movement lends *Emergence* an energy which counters the repose on the

other side. It even begins to resemble a surfacing submarine, and this sinister association coexists supremely well with the other, more sensuous and scientific meanings.

We are left with a mystery, but one containing a richness of possible interpretations. They help to explain why Cragg continues, in mid-career, to be counted among the most resourceful and rewarding of British sculptors.

● The exhibition continues at the Lisson Gallery (071-724 2739) until Jan 30

Fruitful encounters



David and Goliath: an illuminated psalter from the circle of Domenico Ghirlandaio

Since the Orangerie Italiana at the Accademia Italiana is now in its third annual edition, British art lovers may well have realised that "Orangerie" is Europeak for a particular kind of art fair: that in which (on a model first created at the Charlottenburg Orangerie in Berlin) the dealers show not stand by stand, but all mixed up, so that the result is an integrated thematic exhibition.

The theme of the Orangerie Italiana is, naturally enough, everything Italian or with Italian connections, provided only that it is art and antique. The show attracts only the most prestigious dealers, some 30 of them this year, from Europe and America. And the general impression is of fewer but finer pieces, displayed to greater advantage. The only dealer to go in for overkill is Antiquus, whose corner has been turned into a Wunderkammer full of exquisite and bizarre oddments, including an amazing early 17th-century Sicilian jewellery cabinet in lampwork glass over pine.

John Russell
Taylor finds much
to enjoy at a
London art fair
with a difference

This was one of the nominations for the Crowley Colosso Leonardo Prize, an award for the dealer making the most important discovery in the field of Italian art. This year the prize goes to Clive Gill, of Sarice Antiques, Tunbridge Wells, for having unearthed, unrecognised in a country auction, a mid-15th century manuscript of Basilio da Parma's *Astronomicon*, illuminated with delightful drawings of the signs of the zodiac.

These careful days, many of the newly recovered pieces are ascriptions merely, but then one of the incidental purposes of the Orangerie is to get visitors to look at the art, rather than just the name on the label. One of the most striking sculptures, for instance, is a terracotta *The Lamentation*

with St John the Evangelist, attributed to Ubaldo Gandolfi (1728-1781), but the point is that the piece manages to be formally satisfying and exquisitely moving in its modest compass, no matter who created it.

Another highlight of a show packed with incident is a lovely illumination on parchment of *David and Goliath* from the circle of Ghirlandaio, and a particularly imposing 18th-century green marble canopy vase in the revived Egyptian style.

And for connoisseurs of the odd, there is an overweeningly self-confident mid-Victorian sideboard in ebony, rosewood and parcel-gilt by Morant Boyd and Morant, dated 1859. Why is it here? Because the back-piece is a triptych of *Sailing Boats off Venice* by Edward William Cooke, RA. A reasonable excuse. But then no excuse is really needed.

● Accademia Italiana, 24 Rudland Gate, SW7 (071-225 3474) Mon-Fri 11am-7pm, Sat-Sun 11am-6pm, until next Friday. Admission, with catalogue, £5.

IT WOULDN'T BE
A PARTY WITHOUT SOMEONE
TO LAUGH AT.

IT WOULDN'T BE A PARTY WITHOUT
OUR PRICE

WORLD MUSIC/ROCK: David Toop talks to South Africa's Ladysmith Black Mambazo; Shakin' Stevens reviewed

Affirming the power of harmony

For some South African musicians, Paul Simon's 1987 *Graceland* album marked the start of an international career. Ladysmith Black Mambazo was one of the bands picked by Simon to work on his African phase. In the years that followed, this nine-man a cappella choir from the town of Ladysmith, Natal, has jumped from cult status to a life of television commercials, film soundtracks, world tours and hit albums.

Their resonant voices can be heard on a current Cadbury's milk chocolate television advert or fleshing out Jeff Wayne's *Spartacus* album. From the films of Michael Jackson and Marlon Brando to Spike Lee and Eddie Murphy, or from 7-Up to Honda and to MTV — Ladysmith Black Mambazo has pitched in Zulu harmonies to add depth to the hard sell.

After 20 years, the rewards are flooding in. All's well, then? Not exactly. South Africa's violence has recently added a sombre note to the success. Last December, Headman Shabalala, a founder member of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, was shot dead by a white security guard named Sean Clyde Nicholas.

According to witnesses, Nicholas stopped the van that Headman was driving and then attempted to pull him through a window, first tearing his clothes and then shooting him through the mouth. Later, claims were made that Headman was drunk. His erratic driving, claimed Nicholas, was an invitation to try a citizen's arrest. Yet like other members of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Headman was deeply religious and a non-drinker.

Although Nicholas was found guilty of murder at his trial in November, the judge awarded him a five-year sentence, two years suspended and the remainder under house arrest. Nicholas was "negligent," said the judge, and his actions "drastic and tragic," but felt that a light sentence was appropriate because Nicholas was working and had no criminal record.

In the current volatile climate of retribution and confusion in South Africa, parallels have been drawn

with events that followed the beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles. Paul Simon reacted by giving angry interviews to the American press and television, telling *USA Today* that the lenient sentencing created the impression that "proceeding by the rules of law and morality is an exercise in futility."

Simon played a controversial and much criticised part in challenging attitudes to the cultural boycott by travelling to South Africa and recruiting musicians for his project. More recent events have pushed him into the role of reluctant activist. "I don't know what else I can do but make a point about it," he told *USA Today*. "If no one else makes a fuss [the issue] will die."

In Britain, despite the chart success of *Graceland* and Ladysmith's own *Shaka Zulu*, the case has received little publicity.

Joseph Shabalala, now 52 and the leader of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, has experienced conflicting emotions since the death of his brother. Speaking from Switzerland, where this internationally celebrated group has been performing, he can only express puzzlement and a sense of deep disillusion in response to the verdict.

"We know that in South Africa a black man is worth nothing," he says, "but we thought this time, because of a new government, things were coming better. We discovered that it is still the same."

"Although people were trying to make justice, trying to make peace, coming together around the table to talk, many people don't like this. They still carry on killing each other. Because of this judgment it's encouraging these killers to carry on killing because there is no punishment."

Only Joseph Shabalala's religious faith has helped him maintain restraint. "It's very powerful," he says, "otherwise I would be in jail." During the period when Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, Joseph encouraged the people around him to pray rather than fight. He claims to take no sides in the factional strife that still divides South Africa, only wishing for apartheid and its legacy to be eradicated.



Ladysmith Black Mambazo: founder member Headman Shabalala (far right, second row) was shot and killed last December

"My religion has helped me to be like a preacher to my people," he said. "I have tears if I see my people arguing instead of sitting down together and talking about their problems." Then, in a reference to recent revelations of dirty tricks among South Africa's security forces, he adds: "It sounds like somebody divides them."

Many years ago, when Joseph Shabalala was growing up in the rural area of Natal, he and his friends would laugh at people who became Christians. "Those believers," they would call them, "condemning them for imitating white

people. His own conversion came in 1976, following a dream in which a voice told him that if he fasted for four days, he would defeat his enemy."

Ladysmith Black Mambazo means "Black axe from Ladysmith", a reference to the group's dominance in South Africa's fierce musical competitions. At first, Joseph interpreted his dream as a sign that abstinence would help to maintain this winning streak in the contests. Later, he realised that fasting was a metaphor. "The voice was telling me to conquer myself, my flesh, my own desires."

Through such self-denial has come a moral strength which transmits itself through the group's robust harmonies and their simple communication of dancing and unadorned voices. The value of these elements has touched a nerve in listeners outside South Africa. Ladysmith Black Mambazo have toured in Russia, Japan, Europe and America, playing to yuppies in search of enlightenment as well as lifters in a North Carolina prison. "From mud to stardom," is how Joseph somewhat bemusedly describes their trajectory.

The loss of his brother was a

profound shock. "We lost a man of peace," he says. "We lost a man who was shaking the walls with his beautiful roaring voice." The roaring can still be heard on a new album, *Inkanyiso Nezazi*, which means "the star and the wise man". This album of Christmas songs may be the last to feature Headman Shabalala, but Headman's story may have further to run.

● Ladysmith Black Mambazo will perform their only British show of 1992 at the Victoria Palace Theatre, London (071-834 1317) on Sunday. *Inkanyiso Nezazi* (FRT-CD 502) was released by Flame Tree Records earlier this week.

Not much shaking going on

A well-dressed young German couple outside the Dominion Theatre offered the opinion that Shakin' Stevens, now known as Shaky, is "the best thing since Elvis Presley". It made one wonder what Elvis represents in Germany. There is definitely a touch of Presley about Shaky's pert quiff, but it is the Vegas version rather than the mean, Sun Records original.

Shaky is the self-appointed inheritor of Presley's mantle and he takes the responsibility seriously. He assiduously stages the sort of 1950s rock 'n' roll revue that Elvis might have, if he had come from Wales instead of Tennessee. A seven-piece band anchored by a squawking tenor saxophone reproduced a clutch of early rock classics. Up front, Shaky stood splay-legged at a microphone and went about his business with furrowed-brow concentration.

The band loped through a dozen of Shaky's own hits and admirably faithful renditions of seminal tunes such as "The Wanderer" and "Baby It's You". During the latter, the singer stayed so true to the phrasing and intonation of the original that he was not interpreting so much as unabashedly copying. This he did in a profoundly perfunctory manner. His own stuff was dispatched in a similarly detached way.

Shaky followed jangly song. Stevens tackled each with the impersonal enthusiasm Elvis might have shown a particularly plump cheeseburger. For all the passion he exhibited, he could have been singing on one of those old compilations of pop cover versions. It was hard to believe that this was a man who had 15 Top Ten singles.

The audience, for their part, had a jolly time jiggerbugging in their seats. It took the Chuck Berry pastiche "Turning Away" to get them jiving in the aisles. Shaky did not seem to be a dancing man himself. He stayed behind his mike, feet a yard apart.

To top things off, Stevens did not perform his best song, "Green Door". If Elvis really is alive, perhaps he had better have a word with Shaky about the proper upkeep of the legacy.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

FRINGE THEATRE: For La Mancha, change at East Croydon

Bold knight's rich reward

Don Quixote
Croydon Warehouse

Vince Foxall's hetero-sleazebag, pantomime version of Cervantes' immortal tale might dismay purists and prudes, but scores high marks for entertainment. Apart from the fizzy word-play and Spanglish jokes of his commissioned script, the success is mainly thanks to the energy of a strong, hard-working cast, briskly marshalled by director Ted Craig.

It is, after all, no more reprehensible to present a literary classic in a frankly filleted form and scatter it with contemporary cultural references and humour, than to attempt to cram the original's epic sweep into a "straight" adaptation for the stage. Violence will be done in either case.

Foxall has not only accepted that fact, but makes a virtue of it, with repeated fast switching between scenes and characters, back and forth in time. The resulting collage, irreverent and frequently ribald, offers a strong sense of both the dark, subtle and the broad, knock-about sides of Spanish humour: while the pathos and dignity of the deluded knight, on his campaign of

holy terror, are also communicated. This is not, perhaps, a show for all ages — the sexual by-play and punning wordplay make it unsuitable for young children.

Michael Pavlaka has designed many memorable sets for the Warehouse, and this is among his very best. Borrowing colours and shapes directly from the work of Miró, Dalí and Gaudí, he has transformed the tiny theatre into a miniature Parc Güell, a playground for the imagination. One particularly striking touch is the flock of flying books above the (central) stage.

Graham Christopher makes a lean and lanky Don, a "knight of the road" with a naturally comical, lugubrious face and a touching earnestness about his disastrous efforts to do good. His Sancho Panza is the contrastingly short and stocky Mija Soteriou, who is a comic revelation.

Philosophically accepting that the worst will probably come his way — "That's the law, the law of El Tougno Tio" — the longing to be back home in constant battle with his mad master, Sancho faithfully follows on foot behind the man of La Mancha's (invisible) horse, hopping, against all the evidence, that things will get better.

Stephanie Ormonde, Carmen Gomez, Anthony Dunn and Olkon Jones take the other 13 roles with great style and also help to play Soteriou's music, which is nicely pointed and atmospheric. Jones is most memorable as a bullfighter with a giant gold codpiece. Stephanie Ormonde shines as the Niece and Juanita (discovered kneeling before Juan: "I call myself Juan-eater"). Dunn provides properly exaggerated villains of various kinds and a distressed goatherd, whose favourite goat falls victim to the Don. Gomez is an authentically Iberian presence as a duchess and a very accommodating landlady.

TONY PATRICK



Sancho (Mia Soteriou) and the Don (Graham Christopher)

TELEVISION REVIEW

Partially addressed

Any documentary about wages that takes its lead from the Low Pay Unit is clearly not striving very hard for objectivity. *How Low Can You Go?* (Channel 4) was constructed like an old-fashioned "shock issue" of the *Daily Mirror*. One by one, people on low incomes told Geordie comedian Mike Elliott how they managed — or mostly, how they did not.

The message was clear enough, as far as it went. Many people in Britain, working in unskilled jobs, are paid at levels shocking to makers of television documentaries. It is difficult to support a family on £150 a week or less, though most of those on last night's film seemed less horrified by their plight than Elliott. They wanted more, of course, but they seemed to acknowledge that their lack of qualifications made that unlikely.

The implication was that these people were being exploited by companies that could afford to pay more. Without a sight of the balance sheet and the profit and loss account, it is impossible to know, but I suspect that many of

the employers were themselves clinging on by their fingernails. To pay more and go broke is always an option, but hardly appealing.

The truth is rather more complex than this attractively-produced programme was willing to admit. Britain is a relatively poor country with rich pretensions, which has failed to raise the skill level of its labour force. The world swarms with unskilled workers, most of whom would be thrilled to earn £150 a week. And anybody who believes that minimum wage legislation eliminates poverty has not looked very closely at the rural France so recently hymned by the Prince of Wales.

Elliott, new to me, has a laddish manner and an inexhaustible supply of Christmas cracker jokes. But he is amiable and made what could have been a preachy show tolerably watchable. Sir John Harvey-Jones he isn't, but *How Low Can You Go?* will have pricked a few consciences and stimulated a few questions. As far as it went, it went well.

NIGEL HAWKES

ORCHESTRAS: a new plan to amalgamate two in Scotland

Scottish bandwagon expected to lose a wheel

The creation of a new National Orchestra of Scotland will mean the merging of two existing bands. Richard Morrison reports

The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra is to be amalgamated with the orchestra of Scottish Opera. That is the plan announced yesterday by the Scottish Arts Council (SAC), the BBC and Scottish Opera. Merging the two orchestras to form a large symphony orchestra of around 94 players will involve 13 redundancies: seven from the BBC orchestra; six from Scottish Opera.

The new orchestra, to be called the National Orchestra of Scotland, will have Richard Armstrong, Scottish Opera's music director, as its chief conductor. It will come into existence next September, making its debut at the Edinburgh Festival, and divide its time between playing for all Scottish Opera productions, broadcasting and public concerts. According to the SAC, it will have a "guaranteed minimum existence" of ten years. The SAC has acted as honest broker in discussions between



Kenyon: delighted

the negotiations or advised in advance of the announcement. The BBC and Scottish Opera said that consultation with both orchestras will begin immediately, and negotiations with the MU are expected to begin in the new year.

Nicholas Kenyon, the BBC's controller of music, said he was "delighted" with the proposal, and added that it was a response to the unique situation in Scotland. It was not a

result of the BBC's current review of its orchestral provision, he said, but was "complementary" to it. "It will save Radio 3 about £500,000 a year, but this money will be reinvested in the BBC's cultural activities in Scotland."

Scottish Opera has had a troubled 18 months since its former managing director, Richard Manley, resigned after a disagreement with the board. A financial crisis and an £800,000 deficit has led to the cancellation of a projected *Ring* cycle, and the company has also cut back touring. Passing some orchestral costs on to the BBC would clearly be an attractive proposition.

Yesterday, however, Richard Jarmann, the company's present managing director, preferred to stress the advantages of Scottish Opera being the only British opera company outside London to perform with a full-scale symphony orchestra. "This will lead to an enhancement in the quality and substance of Scottish Opera's work. Scottish Opera players will face a greater challenge." The new orchestra will be directly managed by Scottish Opera.

"IN THE SHARPEST TRADITION OF BRITISH COMEDY"



A comedy about love, friendship and other natural disasters.

KENNETH STEPHEN HUGH RITA TONY EMMA
BRANAGH FRY LAURIE RUDNER SLATTERY THOMPSON
PETER'S FRIENDS

Reunited Film — The Samuel Goldwyn Company
Kenneth Branagh — AlphaGraphics Entertainment — Stephen Fry — Hugh Laurie — Rita Rudner — Tony Slattery — Emma Thompson
Emma Thompson — Martin Bergman — Simon Curtis — Stephen Collins — Tim Harvey — Andrew Marlowe
Simon Curtis — Roger Lander — Rita Rudner — Martin Bergman — Emma Thompson — Stephen Collins
Kenneth Branagh
Radio and TV: Bears For Pears — Nina Simone — Queen — Cyndi Lauper — Bruce Springsteen
The Pretenders — Tina Turner — Eric Clapton — The Passions — Michael Nesmith — Daryl Braithwaite
Peter's Friends — When the comedy world meets reality, how can you lose?

"INTELLIGENT, ARTFUL, CLEVER CINEMA"

"HILARIOUS"

"A TRIUMPH ... SUPERB"

IN THE WEST END AND
AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU NOW

MOTORING

BMW has found that recycling can make new cars and new profits. Vaughan Freeman reports

Car dumps? Scrap that idea

At present just a small proportion of the nation's scrap cars are recycled either in part or in whole. But now Britain's first car dismantling and recycling plant has started operation and pays anything from £100 to £2,000 for vehicles.

Bolney Motors in West Sussex is BMW's first recycling initiative in the UK. The plant should be processing up to 2,500 old BMWs by next year. The German manufacturer hopes to have as many as 15 such plants in the UK by 1995 to recycle all the 16,000 BMWs scrapped here annually.

In 1990 half a million cars in Britain were written off and sent to be scrapped. The bulk came from insurance companies disposing of accident write-offs and the rest from dealers passing on part-exchange vehicles that were unroadworthy. The remainder came from private owners who had decided their car could not be sold but was no longer worth repairing to keep on the road.

The occasional scrapyard piled high with teetering mountains of rusting hulks may be a useful source of parts for the DIY mechanic but it is an inefficient method of recycling. As a result, almost two thirds of scrap cars go for land fill in the form of a black toxic sludge, constituting a distasteful waste of raw materials and resources.

At present the Bolney Motors plant can salvage or recycle more than 80 per cent of the raw materials in scrapped vehicles. That figure will rise to 90 per cent when future BMWs, designed and built with recycling in mind, work their way into the system.

Watching the recycling process is like watching a video of a car construction factory, but in reverse. Bolney Motors managing director Mr Paul Webb explains: "First the car goes into a drainage bay where the battery is removed, anti-freeze is drained into 45-gallon tanks and recycled, petrol is drained off and used in our company cars, air conditioning gas is extracted and goes back to BMW dealers to be re-used."

Oil such as in the gearbox and engine is drained into an underground tank where it is used to help heat the recycling building. All mechanical parts that are



New for old: the Bolney Motors recycling plant in West Sussex, where every part of an old BMW is grist to the mill, not toxic waste

deemed fit for possible overhaul and resale are removed. These are later serviced and sold by Bolney as used parts to help keep other BMWs on the road a while longer.

The interior too is stripped. Seats that are in good condition are removed for cleaning and resale but those too tatty to be salvaged are reduced to their metal frames and rubber hair. This old upholstery is compressed and goes to make sound deadening material for BMW's new range of cars.

Finally, large items like the engine and sub-frames are removed and the car roof is cut off for ease of transport before the gund shell is sent to be reprocessed at a metal-shredding plant.

Shell takes brake fluid drained from the cars, Pilkington takes screen glass

Setting up the Bolney Motors operation has meant developing contacts with companies who can use the materials that are extracted. Shell takes brake fluid drained from the cars, Pilkington takes screen glass to be melted down, and aluminium smelters also use Bolney Motors as a source.

The plant points the way forwards, said Mr Webb, who says cars will in future have to be designed with recycling in mind. For instance modern dashboards made of metal, plastic and foam which is all bonded together, can not be separated for recycling. BMW is producing dashboards made only of plastic.

BMW believes that as well as being an environmentally sound initiative and a politically assured one, it should also prove profitable. Mr Webb pays car owners a minimum of £100 for their wrecks, rising to £2,000 for a BMW 750.

Breaking down a car takes up to seven hours and costs about £175 per vehicle in labour alone. The returns begin from metal merchants willing to pay £35 per ton of car shell metal.

Mr Webb says: "We believe if the thing is run properly we can make money and if we can dismantle and recycle efficiently then there should be a market at the end of it for us."

BMW owners can contact Bolney Motors on 0444 246583.

Let the satellite take the strain

The Japanese are pressing ahead with an automatic safe-driving system

The fall of the Berlin Wall has brought with it an unexpected but welcome "peace dividend" for motorists fed up with maps, jams and crowded roads in the futile fight to drive somewhere on time (Vaughan Freeman writes). Military satellites are increasingly under-used as the demand for military hardware evaporates in the wake of improving East-West relations.

Mazda, the Japanese car manufacturer, is already using recently vacated military satellite links in Japan to provide motorists with instant information on where they are, and how to get where they want to go, fast. Now Mazda is preparing to graft this system onto an entire safe-driving package which will give motorists maximum information on the road ahead, as well as automatically keeping their vehicles at a safe speed for the conditions and at a safe distance from vehicles ahead.

The system is now in prototype form, and being tested on a "mule" mobile test-bed in Japan in the form of a Mazda 929. At its heart are three in-car cameras mounted on the front edge of the car roof at the top of the windscreen. These monitor the vehicle's position and tell the motorist where he is in relation to the middle of the road, whether he is approaching a bend too quickly and whether he is weaving. Warning lights are used together with a voice box, and the audio warnings include "leaving lane", "distance too close" and "excess speed".

In addition, a laser radar mounted on the front of the car at bumper height checks the speed and distance of vehicles in front. When set to "follow mode" or "traffic mode", information from the laser feeds to a central computer then automatically controls accelerator and brakes to keep the car at a constant distance from the vehicle in front. All this, Mazda says, allows the driver to concentrate solely on steering rather than worrying about cars in front suddenly stopping unexpectedly.

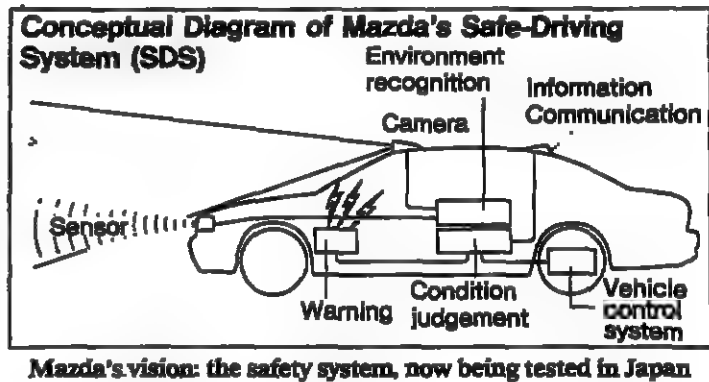
The driver can also pick up information on which roads are busiest. An aerial receives information on traffic flows from a central control centre, relayed to the car via roadside beacons. This information is displayed to the driver through display screens on the dashboard.

Mazda insists that the system is not a gimmick. The navigation system is in use in Japan today, having been introduced two years ago, eight years after Mazda said they were working on it. It is available on the Mazda Unos Cosmo limousine as an optional extra and costs £2,500. The system uses a computer data-bank of maps covering the whole of Japan.

A display panel allows the driver to pull over and check exactly where he is. He can then call up the best route to his destination.

Mazda spokesman Tim Watson says: "The safe driving system is not a gimmick. Mazda is serious in putting together a package that will be available on cars within 10 years time."

Motorists who venture on the M25 armed only with local radio traffic bulletins can only hope the breakthrough comes sooner rather than later.



Mazda's vision: the safety system, now being tested in Japan

Honda aims at the big boys

America loves it
— now the
top-flight Accord
is about to
hit Britain

Honda's recently completed £300 million Swindon factory is building just one or two of its all new Accord saloons each day (Vaughan Freeman writes).

This is the car with which Honda plans to assault its upmarket rivals such as BMW, Audi and Mercedes Benz. The tiny daily output is deliberate, as Honda strives to ensure that quality is first rate before production is increased. The two cars a day are rigorously checked for possible quality flaws at each stage of assembly. This is partly because the first cars to be built will be helping Britain's export drive to that most demanding of markets, Germany.

Besides this, the saloons, to cost from £15,000 to £19,000, will be competing against cars such as the Audi 80, BMW 3 series, Mercedes Benz 190 and top-flight offerings from Ford and Vauxhall.

Despite the recession, falling new car sales and job layoffs and short-time working at other UK manufacturers, Honda has just announced it will create a further 1,100 jobs in addition to the existing 900 staff at the Swindon factory.



Where luxuries are fitted as standard: the 125mph Honda Accord is set to challenge BMW and Mercedes Benz

Output of the Accord will rise next year to 30,000 and hit an annual 50,000 by 1995. Total annual production at Swindon will be 100,000 by 1995, with the introduction alongside the Accord of a new Concerto.

In America Honda's slow build-up has paid dividends. The American version of the Accord has been the country's top-selling car for the past two years. Honda claims not to have such ambitious plans in Britain, despite the faith it is placing in the 125mph Accord.

With its Formula One racing pedigree Honda has long been proud of its engineering tradition, and the two-litre versions of the Accord mirror that pride.

The 16-valve engine is remarkably smooth and equipment levels extremely high with the "basic" LS fitted with anti-lock brakes, power steering, remote central locking and electric windows, mirrors and sunroof as standard. The Accord ES adds air conditioning, alarm system and driver's side air bag.

The cars are comfortable and the back seats provide enough head and leg room for passengers more than 6ft tall.

Driving the basic LS and ES models one after the other I found the LS less lively and lacking the response of its dearer cousin, even though the engines, transmission and steering were identical.

There is no doubt about the quality of the Accord finish, yet the car does not carry the same feeling of weight and solidity as, for example, a BMW. The car goes on sale in Britain next

spring and customers will have to wait just two weeks from order to delivery.

Engine: 2-litre 4-cylinder 16-valve petrol engine giving a maximum 131bhp at 5,400rpm; with front wheel drive and five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: 0-60mph in 11 sec, top speed 125mph. Economy: 35mpg at 75mph, 28mpg in town. Price: From about £15,000.

The cold facts about safety-first driving

Take more care this winter — and get home in one piece

Forward planning is the most crucial of accessories for any motorist setting out on a winter drive with hopes of arriving safely (Vaughan Freeman writes). Winter, with its long hours of darkness, ice, fog, and snow, make motoring even more hazardous than usual.

Before getting behind a wheel, the safe driver has already been busy preparing to drive safely, the AA says.

On frosty winter mornings, a clear view of the road is essential, yet too many motorists just clear a tiny patch on their windscreen before setting off.

Andrew Howard, the head of the Automobile Association's road safety unit, says: "Too many motorists drive like tank commanders, peering through tiny holes scraped in snow-covered or ice-covered windows. They are seriously compromising safety as well as breaking the law."

During the winter, keep your car fully serviced. Roy Staunton, the head of technical services at the AA, says flat batteries are one of the biggest causes of breakdown in winter, and must be kept topped up with distilled water. Terminals and connectors should be smeared with petroleum jelly to combat corrosion.

Anti-freeze also must be checked to ensure the level is

right, and that it is of the right strength to prevent radiator water from freezing. Tyre pressures and reads should be checked weekly, windscreen wipers, which crack in the cold, replaced every 12 months, and a freezing inhibitor added to the screen washer bottle (do not use anti-freeze as this will damage paintwork).

In bad winter conditions,

'If you know it is going to be foggy, allow a lot more time for your journey'

decide first if your journey is necessary. If it is, take a tow rope, jump leads, a small spade, and matting for extra grip. On long trips, a thermos of hot drink and a blanket are a good idea.

Stick to main roads, as less-used roads are more likely to be icy. "Always drive to suit the conditions," Mr Howard says, "and keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front. If you know it is going to be foggy, allow a lot more time for your journey."

Sliding is every motorist's nightmare, and Linda Hawsell, the AA driving school training manager, says: "On snow-covered and icy roads, pull away in the high gear possible, to avoid wheelspin."

"Steer, brake, and accelerate slowly to prevent loss of control. Remember, ice may be lurking underneath slushy roads, so use gritted roads wherever possible."

"Take particular care when driving downhill on ice. Slow down and select a high gear to reduce the risk of skidding caused by engine braking."

"If the car starts to slide, ease off the brakes and accelerator, then re-apply the brakes lightly several times in quick succession until you regain control."

If the worst comes to the worst and you either break down or the car leaves the road, immediately turn on the hazard warning lights. It is also advisable to get out of the car, especially on motorways, to avoid injury should another vehicle hit you from behind.

However, women drivers, particularly when travelling alone, should stay close to the car with a nearside door open so that they can quickly get back in should somebody approach of whom they are not sure. Once inside, they should also lock the doors and windows.

Catching up with criminals

D-fuelling

A YEAR after launching the Peugeot 106, the range has been expanded with the introduction of diesel engine versions priced at between £7,142 and £7,507.

The 1.4-litre diesel engines give a fuel economy of 76mpg at 56mph, and a 700-mile range on each nine-gallon fill-up.

High calibre

VAUXHALL has scooped a fistful of accolades for its performance cars. The Calibra four-wheel drive turbo, the Carlton three-litre GSi and the Lotus Carlton have all been voted best cars in their category by

ROADWISE

the readers of *Fast Lane* sporting car magazine.

Vauxhall was the only manufacturer to win more than one award, and the cars won particular praise for their safety items, such as anti-lock brakes.

Maverick deal

FORD has finally moved to cash in on the only booming sector of new car sales. Four-wheel drive vehicles have seen a 35 per cent rise in sales so far this year, and Ford's offering in this "utility" market is the Maverick, built in partnership with

Nissan at the Japanese manufacturer's Barcelona factory.

Like the Vauxhall Frontera models which it will compete with, the Maverick will come in three-door, short-wheel-base form, and five-door long-wheel-base, with either a 2.4-litre petrol engine or a 2.7-litre diesel. Prices are likely to range from £12,000 to £16,000 and the cars are expected to arrive in the United Kingdom next summer.

Wain's world

A SERIOUS contender for car commuter of the year must be Louise Wain, a press relations officer, who daily covers the 250-mile round-trip from her Malvern

home near Hereford to her office in Chiswick, west London.

Louise gets through a tank of fuel a day and spends five hours behind the wheel. Asked why, she said she loves her job, her home and her driving.

Three's company

BMW HAS announced it is to bring forward the planned launch in the United Kingdom of its high performance M3 coupe.

The £33,000 M3 will now be launched here next May. BMW hopes to sell 250 of the 155mph cars annually in Britain, as the sporting flagship of its 3-series range.

Despite the top speed and a 0-60mph figure of six seconds, BMW claims the fuel consumption of 43mpg at 56mph.



POLICE in the North East have added a 140mph Ford Escort RS Cosworth (left) to their anti-crime armoury. The Northumbria police has a fleet of high performance Sierra Cosworths which helped cut auto crime 13 per cent in the past year. High speed chases have dropped 15 per cent as thieves ditch their stolen cars rather than trying to out-speed the police.

Chinese whisperers

THE spirit of free enterprise is infiltrating China. A £1 million fleet of ten Rolls Royces is on its way to customers there, while in London, the Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Mr Ma Yuzhen, has taken delivery of a £115,000 Rolls Royce Silver Spur II, appropriately finished in Ming blue.

Leading club's superiority deadens interest

Uefa may rethink cup format after Milan dominance

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AC MILAN in imposing a stranglehold on group B in the Champions League are deadening the interest in the final stages of the European Cup.

So crushing is their superiority that Uefa is already considering changing the format which was introduced only last season.

Uefa resisting attempts to turn the whole tournament into a league, decided to compromise. It was agreed that the last eight clubs would be divided into two groups and play against each other at home and away. The winners of each group qualify for the final.

The scheme, though lucrative enough to satisfy the greed of Europe's elite, was flawed. "We could see there might be a problem if one club was much stronger than the others in the group," a Uefa spokesman said after Rangers had beaten CSKA Moscow in Bochum.

Milan, predictably, have realised that fear. They have already overwhelmed 4-0 their closest pursuers, Gothenburg, and effectively reduced the rest of the fixtures in group B to an exercise in competing merely for money (each point is worth £220,000) rather than the ultimate prize.

The players themselves do not receive the financial rewards. The only benefits to be gained by CSKA Moscow, for example, is a new team bus and an excursion to Costa Brava, where they prepared for the tie against Rangers,

and now an extended visit to Berlin. Unless players are offered greater incentives, they might perform in the same lethargic manner as the Russians, who appeared to accept that they were already out of the tournament. They seemed to be playing instead for their own individual futures with clubs outside their own country.

Crowds are likely to dwindle. Once Milan have officially secured their place in the final on May 26, as soon they doubtless will, even their own supporters would be less than enthralled by occasions so devalued as to be virtually meaningless.

The most obvious solution would be to stage semi-finals at the end of the round robin series. If the runners-up in group B were to meet the winners of group A, for instance, Milan's rivals would not now be chasing an apparently lost cause.

Yet fitting the semi-finals into a European programme which is threatening to become excessively crowded poses another difficulty. The Uefa spokesman revealed that next season's Uefa Cup will feature no fewer than 96 entrants and the tournament will have to open in July.

Although England's two qualifiers will be seeded, they can expect to be involved almost as soon as the curtain is raised on the domestic season the following month.

The timing of the European

Cup may also have to be brought forward if semi-finals are to be accommodated.

Uefa would be reluctant to hold them in the last month of the season.

The governing body would prefer not to interfere with the attraction of the finals of the Cup-Winners' Cup and the Uefa Cup and so further diminish their stature.

Had Marseille not yielded a two-goal lead to Rangers, whom they outclassed at Ibrox a fortnight ago, the outcome of group A would appear to be a similarly foregone conclusion.

The French champions, who maintained a 3-0 lead built within half an hour against Bruges on Wednesday, are clear favourites to finish at the top.

Rangers, narrow winners over the apathetic Russian champions, are in contention and their next two ties promise to be crucial. Only if they take three points off Bruges at home and away in March can they realistically expect to be able to surpass Marseille, their hosts on April 7.

Uefa will not announce the venue of the European Cup final for another three months. It is significant, though, that one arena already mentioned as being potentially suitable is the Olympic Stadium in Munich. Capable of housing 73,000 spectators, it is equidistant between Milan and Marseille.



Strong-arm tactic: Karen Pickering on her way to a convincing victory in the 100 metres freestyle in Sheffield yesterday

Robins and Baker power to British records

By CRAIG LORD

A MORNING of great promise at the Optrex national short-course championships in Sheffield gave way to an afternoon that came too soon for some in which, but for the starter, there might have been four British records.

In the event, there were two, one for Grant Robins, 4min 16.65sec in the 400 metres medley — the other for Zoe Baker, whose 31.66sec in the 50 metres breaststroke was 0.5sec faster than the

record of Lorraine Coombes, who was second yesterday. Neither Baker nor Robins made the Olympic team in June.

"A 4-35 today and an Olympic swim would have been better than a 4-16 and no Olympics," Robins, who shaved 0.1sec off the standard he set three years ago, said. "But then this helps — at least people are patting me on the back again instead of consoling me."

Robins suffered the same fate yesterday as the winners

in five of the eight races, a lack of competition. The gap between the victor and the seven vanquished was so great as to render the word appropriate only to the minor places.

Where Robins endured a lonely battle against the clock and finished five metres ahead of the pack, Karen Pickering and Mark Foster, the two most notable victims of the starter, had even less competition.

Pickering had clocked 55.56sec in the heats of the

100 metres freestyle, only 0.4sec slower than June Croft's 10-year-old record. Hopes were high for the final, but the starter caused hesitation. Nevertheless, Pickering's winning time of 55.44sec was her best and secured the first of five titles she is defending.

Pickering also complained that the rest period between heats and finals was too short. At the weekend, the finals start early to cater for television coverage, but Pickering said organisers should

give more consideration to the wishes of swimmers on the first two days of the championships. However, Paul Bush, director for England, said coaches had requested consistency where session start times were concerned.

For Foster, a poor start partly explained his 24.13sec in the 50 metres butterfly, fast, but 0.3sec shy of the world record and 0.2sec from his Commonwealth best.

Results, page 40

Palace propose expansion

By PETER BALL

CRYSTAL Palace have put forward a proposal to expand the Premier League by bringing the Football League first division clubs into the fold. The 22 Premier League clubs will be asked to discuss doubling the league's size at their meeting next Wednesday.

With the formation of the Premier League having broken the mould, proposals for new leagues seem to be all the rage. Adding a second division to the Premier League, however, has little more chance of success than the fanciful idea of a European

Super League, which received another airing last weekend. Each has its advocates but both run into several serious obstacles, including the opposition of the game's governing bodies. The Football Association council insisted that they would not sanction a second division as recently as October.

More pertinently, any such move would exacerbate the Premier League's damaging internal divisions between the biggest clubs and the rest. Any expansion would meet implacable resistance from the big clubs, who led the breakaway

from the Football League and have no desire to risk seeing old conflicts revived.

The smaller clubs are far from convinced. "If the big clubs are prepared to look at it, then it would be worth looking at," Ian Stott, the Oldham Athletic chairman, said. "But there are an awful lot of imponderables."

Ron Noades, the Crystal Palace chairman, has argued that the move would make restructuring of the Premier League easier. There are also suggestions that it would pave the way for a rationalisation of television coverage of football, which will exceed 100 live matches this season.

It is also hard to see what incentives the Premier League could offer the first division, apart from status. Noades has proposed that they would receive ten per cent of the Premier League income but no voting rights.

Financially, the first division clubs are better off than they were before the breakaway. One Premier League chairman said: "If Palace get relegated this year, I can't see Mr Noades accepting that he won't have a say in all the decisions affecting his club."

Wales ring changes on referees panel

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time in 14 years the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has named an international referees panel that does not include Clive Norling. The panel announced last night includes two newcomers, Gareth Simmonds and Robert Yernan, who join Derek Bevan for the coming season.

Norling, who has officiated in 25 internationals, has taken over as director of rugby at Bridgend, and will decide at the end of this season whether a back injury will allow him to resume refereeing.

Not since 1975 has the WRU made two changes in one season. Norling's absence and the retirement of Les Peard has meant advancement for Simmonds, of Cardiff, who handled England's game with Canada in October, and Yernan, of Port Talbot, who has been on the fringe of the panel for several seasons.

Meanwhile, Saracens, who

have lost two talented No. 8s, Dean Ryan and Ben Clarke, in recent seasons, will keep an eye on a third, Eric Peters, who captained Cambridge to success in the University match this week. Peters yesterday was named in a 48-strong England Students training squad to meet at Bisham Abbey on January 1 to 3.

Peters, 24 next month, has been a playing member at Saracens for the last four years but commitments at Loughborough and Cambridge have prevented him playing a league match. He has yet to speak to Saracens about his availability in the new year but his performance at Twickenham will not have gone unnoticed by other clubs in the first division.

The training squad includes his Cambridge back-row colleagues, Rory Jenkins and Max Douthie, and Phil Callow, the young tight-head prop, as well as the Oxford full back, Michael Joy.

RUGBY UNION

MOTOR RACING

French grand prix scrapped

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FISA, the international motor sports federation, has decided to scratch the French grand prix from the 1993 Formula One programme because of tough new anti-tobacco laws in France.

At its end-of-year meeting yesterday, FISA's world motor council decided to run only 15 races. The French race had been set for July 4 at the Magny-Cours circuit.

Max Mosley, the FISA president, said that the French anti-tobacco law could not guarantee that cars and equipment bearing cigarette logos would not be seized by courts enforcing the ban on tobacco advertising. The French law bans all forms of cigarette advertising — a leading source of revenue for motor racing.

The French Federation could not give the guarantees to freely circulate the cars in France, Mosley said. "We needed to take a decision rapidly because it was already late to publish the calendar."

A court in Quimper, western France, fined the British-based Williams team £3.5

million under an old anti-tobacco law for displaying Camel logos in a broadcast television from the Australian grand prix in Adelaide.

"We find it strange that a race in Australia should be fined by a French court," Mosley said.

"There is a risk that other teams could be fined for taking part in other races. When they bring their cars into France, they could be seized. We feel this is wrong. It's a risk we can't take."

The restrictions will get worse next year, when a new French law stopping all forms of cigarette advertising comes into effect on January 1.

In November, Mosley asked the French federation to guarantee that no cars or equipment would be detained with seizure for a race run on French territory. But Jean-Marie Balestrin, president of the French racing federation, said he could not guarantee that cars subject to court rulings in France would not be seized.

"I'm very disappointed about the French grand prix," Frank Williams, owner of the Williams team, said. "However, it's still six months until the grand prix and I'm hopeful something can be rescued."

Mosley said there was a slight chance that a French race could be held in another country where anti-tobacco measures are less stringent. The French federation would have to apply to stage it elsewhere and the motor council would have to approve.

1993 FORMULA ONE PROGRAMME: Feb 28: South African grand prix (at Kyalami); Mar 14: Brazilian (Interlagos, Sao Paulo); Apr 11: European (Donington, England); Apr 25: San Marino (Imola, Italy); May 9: Spanish (Barcelona); May 23: Monaco (Monte Carlo); Jun 12: Canadian (Montreal); Jul 4: To be announced; Jul 11: British (Silverstone); Jul 25: German (Hockenheim); Aug 15: Hungarian (Budapest); Aug 29: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps); Sept 12: Italian (Monza); Sept 26: Portuguese (Estoril); Oct 24: Japanese (Suzuka); Nov 7: Australian (Adelaide).

FA criticised by fans

ENGLISH supporters have criticised the FA over last summer's European championship finals, calling them "disorganised", "discredited" and "dishonest".

A 25,000-word report by the Football Supporters Association (FSA) is also highly critical of the government regarding ticket and travel restrictions, which created a "catalogue of chaos".

The FA, says the report, tried to cajole supporters into believing that the only way of

guaranteeing match tickets was to enrol on FA-approved package tours.

"These were an under-subscribed disaster and the FA sold match tickets in Sweden — something they had consistently said they would not do."

The FSA wants an overhaul of arrangements before the 1994 World Cup finals, assuming that Graham Taylor's team qualifies, and an end to measures that "generally deter all but the most hardy and nationalistic young males".

SQUASH

Players threaten boycott

EIGHT of England's top ten men have withdrawn their entries from next month's national championships and have informed the Squash Rackets Association (SRA) that unless the title is returned to full "British closed" status, with at least a doubling of the £10,000 prize fund and with the final stages on a transparent show court, they will boycott the event.

The SRA announced last month that their failure to

secure sponsorship for the event would necessitate a prize fund cut, and play on the club courts of the Village Leisure Hotel in Cheshire, Manchester. It would be a strict "English closed".

Peter Marshall, Chris Walker, Simon Parke, Phil Whitlock, Tony Hands, Jason Nicolle, Stephen Meads and Del Harris wrote to Julie Goodacre, the tournament manager, who said yesterday that entries close today.

Leaders go round halfway

John Chittenden and his Nuclear Electric crew successfully reached the halfway mark on the second stage of the British Steel Challenge round-the-world yacht race yesterday, 76 miles ahead of their closest rivals on Commercial Union.

Both crews have been forced to tack northwards towards the navigation way point 2,000 miles west of Cape Horn that each must round before heading on to Hobart, Tasmania.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 1500 GMT yesterday with miles to Hobart): 1, Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden), 3,680 miles; 2, Commercial Union (R McFarlane), 3,705; 3, British Steel (R Tubb), 3,802; 4, Heath Island (A Goodwin), 3,817; 5, Pilsa de Tencate (H Goodwin), 3,827; 6, Hobart Lager (P Goss), 3,828; 7, Coopers & Lybrand (V Cherry), 3,901; 8, Group 4 Securities (M Gifford), 3,925; 9, Interspace (P Jelliffe), 4,214; 10, Rhona-Pauline (P Phillips), 4,441.

□ The Tutulaka South Pacific Yacht Club yesterday became New Zealand's second challenger for the 1995 America's Cup.

GB pair picked

Hockey: Two of the Great Britain Olympic squad, Don Williams and the goalkeeper, David Luckes, were yesterday selected in the England team for the Indira Gandhi tournament in Bombay next month.

Leaders go round halfway

John Chittenden and his Nuclear Electric crew successfully reached the halfway mark on the second stage of the British Steel Challenge round-the-world yacht race yesterday, 76 miles ahead of their closest rivals on Commercial Union.

Both crews have been forced to tack northwards towards the navigation way point 2,000 miles west of Cape Horn that each must round before heading on to Hobart, Tasmania.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 1500 GMT yesterday with miles to Hobart): 1, Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden), 3,680 miles; 2, Commercial Union (R McFarlane), 3,705; 3, British Steel (R Tubb), 3,802; 4, Heath Island (A Goodwin), 3,817; 5, Pilsa de Tencate (H Goodwin), 3,827; 6, Hobart Lager (P Goss), 3,828; 7, Coopers & Lybrand (V Cherry), 3,901; 8, Group 4 Securities (M Gifford), 3,925; 9, Interspace (P Jelliffe), 4,214; 10, Rhona-Pauline (P Phillips), 4,441.

□ The Tutulaka South Pacific Yacht Club yesterday became New Zealand's second challenger for the 1995 America's Cup.

GB pair picked

Hockey: Two of the Great Britain Olympic squad, Don Williams and the goalkeeper, David Luckes, were yesterday selected in the England team for the Indira Gandhi tournament in Bombay next month.

Chelsea may move up to second

CHELSEA, with only one defeat in their past ten games, travel to Middlesbrough tonight for a Premier League game in which a win will see them go second in the table.

It will be the third different day in three successive weekends that they have taken the field. A fortnight ago, on a Sunday, they beat the champions, Leeds United, in front of the live satellite television cameras; last Saturday they defeated Tottenham at White Hart Lane — and tonight is BSkyB's first Friday live transmission of a Premier League match.

Ian Porterfield, the Chelsea manager, said: "We have now-

adays got to accept the dictates of television. It is something that we have to come to terms with."

"Most footballers prefer to work towards a Saturday afternoon game, but if we get the same result as the last two weekends, it will be worth it. We've got to forget all about it and just concentrate on getting results."

The game will be a rehearsal for the FA Cup third-round meeting between the two sides, scheduled to take place at Ayresome Park on Sunday, January 3.

Ayresome is a ground that has not been a happy one for Chelsea in the past — their last

visit saw them lose 2-0 in May 1988 in the play-offs, a defeat which condemned them to relegation.

The only survivor in the Chelsea side from that game is likely to be the goalkeeper, Kevin Hitchcock.

Of more concern to Porterfield is the problems he may have with his forward line. The leading scorer, Mick Harford, is serving the second match of a three-game ban and now there is a doubt about Robert Fleck.

The Scotland striker went off injured at Tottenham, only resuming light training yesterday. Fleck will fly up with the rest of the squad today and a late decision will be made on his fitness, though Porterfield is hopeful.

Middlesbrough, who last week triumphed over Blackburn thanks to a John Hendrie hat-trick, could be without five players.

Alan Kernaghan, the captain, will be out of action with a stress fracture until mid-January and the Republic of Ireland internationals, Chris Morris and Bernie Slaven, plus the midfield players Willie Falconer and Robbie Mustoe, are having treatment. Lawrence said: "We regained our pride with that win over Blackburn. If we repeat those standards we could beat Chelsea."

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Group A: CSKA Moscow 0, Rangers 1; (Bochum, Germany); Manchester 3, FC Bayern 0; Group B: Eintracht Frankfurt 1, FC Porto 0; (Pilsa de Tencate) 1, FC Basel 2.

FA CUP: Second round: Plymouth Argyle 2, Peterborough United 2; VS Rugby 0, Halesowen 1.

COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round: Blackburn Rovers 0, Watford 1.

AUTOGASS TROPHY: First round: Bradford City 0, Huddersfield Town 0; Brighton 0, Exeter City 1; Northampton Town 2, Barnet 1.

GB VALDARVA CONFERENCE: Boston 3, Manchester 1.

FOOTBALL: European Champions League: Group A: CSKA Moscow 0, Rangers 1; (Bochum, Germany); Manchester 3, FC Bayern 0; Group B: Eintracht Frankfurt 1, FC Porto 0; (Pilsa de Tencate) 1, FC Basel 2.

FA CUP: Second round: Plymouth Argyle 2, Peterborough United 2; VS Rugby 0, Halesowen 1.

COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round: Blackburn Rovers 0, Watford 1.

AUTOGASS TROPHY: First round: Bradford City 0, Huddersfield Town 0; Brighton 0, Exeter City 1; Northampton Town 2, Barnet 1.

GB VALDARVA CONFERENCE: Boston 3, Manchester 1.

FOOTBALL: European Champions League: Group A: CSKA Moscow 0, Rangers 1; (Bochum, Germany); Manchester 3, FC Bayern 0; Group B: Eintracht Frankfurt 1, FC Porto 0; (Pilsa de Tencate) 1, FC Basel 2.

FA CUP: Second round: Plymouth Argyle 2, Peterborough United 2; VS Rugby 0, Halesowen 1.

COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round: Blackburn Rovers 0, Watford 1.

AUTOGASS TROPHY: First round: Bradford City 0, Huddersfield Town 0; Brighton 0, Exeter City 1; Northampton Town 2, Barnet 1.

GB VALDARVA CONFERENCE: Boston 3, Manchester 1.

SNOOKER

Davis clears the way for victory stroll

STEVE Davis, attempting to win his first title for 11 months, set a record when he compiled three total clearances in a single session to lead Martin Clark 5-3 in their best-of-17 frame. Qualifier World Matchplay semi-final at the Dome, Doncaster, yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Davis appeared in poor form when he trailed 3-1 midway through the afternoon's play. A complete transformation then occurred as Davis initiated his recovery with a magnificent 141 total clearance in the fifth frame.

Clark potted only one red in the sixth frame and then watched as Davis constructed positionally perfect runs of 123 and 135 in the closing two frames of a remarkable session. During the sequence, he scored 369 points without reply.

Davis, runner-up to Gary Wilkinson in the Match Play last year, was left requiring four of the remaining nine frames on the resumption to reach the final, where he will meet either Alan McManis, of Scotland, or James Wattana, of Thailand, who play today.

SCORE: Semi-final: S Davis (high break 141) 5-3 Clark (Eng), 5-3

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

RACING
Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123

FOOTBALL
FA Premier League: reports from Middlesbrough v Chelsea
Call 0839 555 562
Reports and scores from the Barclays League
Call 0839 555 512

Calls at 36p per min. cheap rate, 48p per min. other times. VAT

CHANNEL 4

Why 100,000 children need their heads examined

More than 100,000 children and 250,000 adults in Britain have epilepsy — the most common serious brain disorder. In simple terms, epilepsy is the result of unwanted messages being passed on in the brain, causing seizures, with often disastrous consequences.

Doctors and scientists at the National Society for Epilepsy are at the forefront of investigations into the brain. They have launched the Snapshot Appeal to raise £3 million to set up the world's first magnetic resonance scanning unit dedicated solely to epilepsy treatment and research.

Surgery can offer the only hope of a complete cure. A magnetic resonance scan — which takes detailed snapshots of the brain — is an essential factor in deciding whether a child or an adult could benefit from surgery.

Only 200 operations a year are carried out at the moment. But around 20,000 patients with epilepsy — mainly children and young people — could have their lives transformed by surgery.

Help us to conquer epilepsy

I enclose a donation of 2

payable to the NSE Centenary Snapshot Appeal.

Name:


Address:

Postcode:

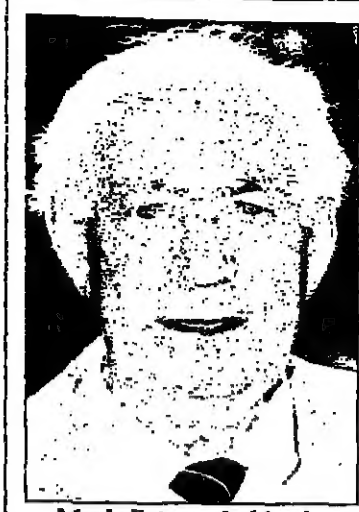
TM01

BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE

Send to The Director,
NSE Centenary Snapshot Appeal,
National Society for Epilepsy,
Chalfont St Giles,
Buckinghamshire SL9 0NJ



FRIDAY DECEMBER 11 1992



Maskell: household voice

BY ANDREW LONGMORE
AND ALEX RAMSAY

IT WAS Arthur Ashe who once said that you could be anywhere in the world, hear the voice of Dan Maskell and know that all was right with the world. Ashe was one of many people in the world of tennis to pay tribute to Maskell, who died early yesterday at the age of 84, nine months after announcing his retirement from the BBC.

The Director-General of the BBC, Sir Michael Checkland, said last night: "Dan Maskell was one of the small group of outstanding broadcasters who set the highest standards and inspired affection from listeners and viewers. 'All of us in the BBC salute his

most distinguished contribution to sports programmes.' Further tributes were paid to Maskell at the annual meeting of the Lawn Tennis Association at Queen's Club, where he began his tennis career in 1923 as a ball boy. The opening words of the meeting were delivered by the association's president, Ian King, who said: 'It's a great loss of someone who has been involved throughout all levels of British tennis as a professional player and as a leading broadcaster.'

For a lifetime he was an absolute gentleman and it was a delight to see him and be with him on every occasion. He was an amazing man." This view was echoed by Chris Goringe, the chief executive of the All England Club, Wimbledon, where Maskell became a household figure. "So many people felt they were his personal friend whether they had actually met him or just heard him on the television," he said. "It is a mark of his popularity and the esteem in which he was held that no one ever said anything bad against him. No one could have loved the game or done more for tennis."

John Curry, chairman of the All England Club, added: "Dan was inextricably linked with the championships, and to millions of fans he was the voice of Wimbledon." John Barrett, Maskell's colleague at the microphone, recalled his first meeting with him in 1947. "I went to him for a tennis lesson and found him delightful. He was so intent on finding out what was bothering you. His whole life was dedicated to serving others — first as a ball boy at Queen's, then as a coach and as a rehabilitation officer during the war — and he loved being involved in a team.

That was one of the reasons he contributed so much to the BBC. 'He always had huge respect for the game of tennis and all those who played it, even when they behaved badly. In return, he gained their respect. I never heard of anyone having a bad word to say about him.' The words of another American commentator, Bud Collins, provide a fitting epitaph: 'Everyone I know thinks three things about Dan Maskell: they think he invented television, they think he invented tennis and they think he invented Wimbledon.'

American refuses to confirm his retirement after defeat

Loose game lets down McEnroe

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

FOR an hour in Munich yesterday, it seemed that John McEnroe might yet stem the tide of time and prove that touch and finesse can mean as much as power in the modern game. He led Goran Ivanisevic by a set and, with a mixture of guile and athleticism, was luring his opponent to the edge of his temper.

But one loose service game at the end of the second set, when he parried a volley just wide, handed the initiative back to Ivanisevic, who had earlier been subdued by the prospect of ending a great champion's career.

Ivanisevic recovered his poise, found his serving touch, and for all McEnroe's desperate efforts to survive, quietly closed the curtain with two service breaks in the final set.

By instinct, McEnroe saved two match points, the first with an exquisite volley, the second with a lob sent him scampering vainly back to the baseline. His own lob hung tantalisingly in the air before landing long to give Ivanisevic a 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, victory in an hour and 42 minutes. The crowd stood and applauded. McEnroe marched off with just a brief wave of the fist. He did, though, acknowledge the umpire, despite being handed a code violation, possibly his last, for verbal abuse. The umpire union will surely not mourn the passing.

McEnroe refused categorically to announce his full retirement. "I feel like that's it, but I'm not 100 per cent sure," McEnroe said. "I am going to

take a step back and leave my options open. I hope to be able to keep in shape."

McEnroe's policy from the first point was typically bold. Unable to match Ivanisevic for pace, he went to the other extreme, slowing down his own serve, sometimes to park court speed, and making his opponent do the work. The tactics were so successful, Ivanisevic did not have a break point until the end of the second set, by which time McEnroe had tucked away the first with the minimum of fuss. Time and again, the tall left-hander rocketed his returns into the net or over the baseline.

Ivanisevic became increasingly frustrated and the decisive break in the first set betrayed his confusion. At 3-4, he served two double-faults, was foot-faulted on break point and then passed with a backhand return. Indeed, the Croat was fortunate not to be given a code violation in the first two sets for a variety of hurls and twirls of the racket.

In contrast to the tempestuous end to their last encounter, in Key Biscayne in March, McEnroe kept his temper well under control until ruled by a service line call. At the changeover, he launched a volley at the umpire, Bruno Retsch, who issued a code warning with commendable speed. McEnroe, though, was still chuntering as he returned to the court and shortly after lost his serve for the first time and the set.

Back on level terms for the first time in the match, Ivanisevic gained in confidence and began to put increasing pressure on McEnroe's service. He broke to lead 4-1, had a point for 5-1, which McEnroe saved, but broke once more in the next game.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: G. Ivanisevic (CRO) bt J. McEnroe (USA), 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.



Victory-bound Sampras on his way to a first-round win over Volkov

TCCB leaves
India tour
options open

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of England's winter tour of India being cancelled receded yesterday as the Test and County Cricket Board stressed a desire to leave a decision to the last moment.

Although hundreds have died during religious violence in India this week, the board remains committed to the tour, which is due to start on December 28. "We are very keen to go and we very much hope we can," Alan Smith, the chief executive, said. "We will not be making any precipitate decisions and I am quite prepared to have a meeting with my executive at Gatwick on December 27 if that is appropriate."

The winter meeting of the board, which ended yesterday, "expressed concern over the situation in India," Smith is in regular contact with the Foreign Office and, through them, with Sir Nicholas Fearn, Britain's High Commissioner in Delhi. But the tour is likely to proceed, even if dates and venues have to be revised.

"The safety of the team is of the utmost importance to us and it would be up to the Indian board to tell us if they thought the tour was now inappropriate," Smith said.

The mooted alternative of a trip to New Zealand yesterday was described by Graham Dowling, Smith's counterpart in Christchurch, as "very difficult to accommodate".

Pakistan's bid with India and Sri Lanka to stage the 1995 World Cup could be endangered by the unrest. "We have time yet, but every-

thing is in a melting pot," Nasim Hassan Shah, the president of the Pakistan cricket board, said yesterday.

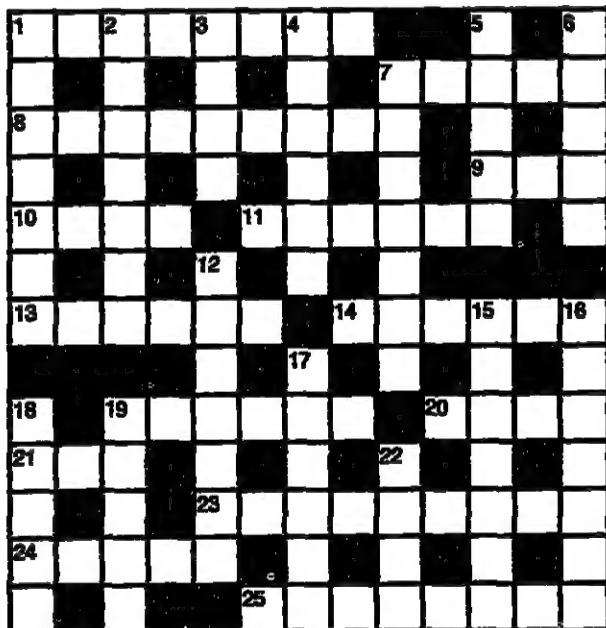
In the wake of the attack on tour selection by a volatile group of David Gower supporters and MCC members, Smith said that confidence in the selectors was "unanimous and enthusiastic" among delegates, who included two MCC officers in Michael Meluish and John Stephenson.

The most radical decision taken was to impose a two-run penalty for all no-balls. Tim Lamb, the board's cricket secretary, reported a general view that the number of no-balls now being bowled was "unprofessional and a source of irritation to spectators". The new regulation will apply, as a one-year experiment, in all domestic cricket, but will also be proposed to next summer's Australian touring team.

In the first year of a fully four-day county championship, bonus points will be earned in the first 120 overs of each first innings, rather than 100. Banning points will now be gained for scoring 200 and each further 50 up to 350, but the new ball will still be available after 100 overs.

A proposal on ball tampering, expected to be made shortly by the law-making MCC cricket committee, will be discussed by the March meeting of the TCCB. Tom Graveney, the former England batsman, will be the match referee for the Pakistan tour of the West Indies beginning in March.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2968



ACROSS

- 1 Quickness (8)
- 7 Normal (5)
- 8 English folk dancer (9)
- 9 Base (3)
- 10 Bait (4)
- 11 Tawdry (6)
- 13 Test outing (3,3)
- 14 Loveliness (6)
- 19 Begin journey (3,3)
- 20 Volition (4)
- 21 Crow noise (3)
- 23 Awake (9)
- 24 Ransack (5)
- 25 Free from physical desire (8)

DOWN

- 1 Made thunder noise (7)
- 2 Show (7)
- 3 Intravenous solution (4)
- 4 Noisy disturbance (6)
- 5 Intimidate (5)
- 6 Comic entertainer (5)
- 7 Untangle (7)
- 12 Fair judgment (7)
- 15 Horned horse (7)
- 16 Embryo bag (7)
- 17 Underground passage (6)
- 18 Neck wrap (5)
- 19 Fast (5)
- 22 North Briton (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2967

ACROSS: 1 Band 8 Rising 9 Venice 10 Dredge 11 Liss 12 Teasener 15 Skittles 17 Mosh 18 Planit 21 Nature 22 Crucible 23 Nuss

DOWN: 1 Maverick 2 Adrift 3 Oriental 4 Feud 5 Pliers 6 Snug 13 Absentee 14 Entirety 16 Trance 17 Mutiny 19 Lord 20 Tube

UPDATING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Panzer — Wells, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Challengers 1987/88. Black has sacrificed a piece for an attack. How does he now finish off? British grandmasters Nunn and Speelman will be among the eight players in the top section at this year's Hastings tournament. Further details from the British Chess Federation on page 40.

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with help levels, truns on most PCs, call Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDs on 0202 890000 - STOP PRESS! just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords - ring Akom. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

PERISCHII

- a. Magicians
- b. Polar dwellers
- c. Abdominal ligaments

NAYWORD

- a. A watchword
- b. A negative word

Answers on page 40

- c. A donkey-driver's call
- BOONGARY
- a. A drug smuggler
- b. The tree kangaroo
- c. To overact and ham it up
- EPICYNE
- a. A female descendant
- b. A spider's egg-layer
- c. A vertical crank-shaft

Milan hit even higher peak

DAVID MILLER
Chief Sports Correspondent

WATCHING AC Milan annihilate Real Madrid 5-0 in the European Cup semi-final second leg of 1989 at San Siro, and then Steaua by four goals in the final, it was not possible to suppose that three years later they would build an even more formidable team. They have.

The Dutch know a thing or two about exceptional football. Feyenoord, Ajax and Philips have set a standard. So too has the national team. Yet one of the Dutch head-lines greeting Milan's 2-1 victory in Eindhoven was unrestrained yesterday morning: "A lesson for PSV from a team out of this world." The opinion was unanimous: Milan are playing a class of football that not only made PSV look second rate, on their own ground, but would, I believe, have subdued any of the great teams of the past: Honved, Real, Manchester United, Benfica, Ajax, Bayern, Liverpool.

Stivio Berlusconi, Milan's impresario president, had been planning a party yesterday for Fabio Capello, the coach, and his team; but the eye infection that had prevented Berlusconi being in Holland for the match kept him at home. The celebration was deserved. In all my years following the game, I cannot recall a team that was more of a unit.

We expect extravagance from Italian sides, but not players who are simultaneously workaholics. What

Capello has achieved with Milan is, in the words of one of Holland's most experienced critics, "almost unbelievable. They move from goal to goal in seven seconds, it is the ball doing the work."

The experience for PSV was suffocating, like attempting to play on an area reduced by Milan's aggression to the size of a tennis court. There was nowhere to go, and nowhere to hide. If an Eindhoven player lost possession in attack, he in effect instantly put his defence under the whip. They are saying in Milan that



Lennart: key player

Capello — who scored the only goal in Italy's first win at Wembley in 1973 — is better than Arrigo Sacchi. When Milan were destroying Real and Steaua three years ago, it was with the languid athleticism of Gullit, the needle sharpness of van Basten and the drive of Rijkaard the three Dutchmen. Now, the entire team is moving as though computerised, and it is a joy to watch.

When Milan were dominant, Baresi, the sweeper, and his two markers, Costacurta and Maldini, could be seen making three separate moves to put the opposition offside within half a minute forward and back, forward and back, instantly reshaping the moment PSV did not make the forward pass. Not your familiar, lumbering English offside tactics, that Nottingham Forest so ably punished last week at Leeds.

From the team that won the final three seasons ago, Colombo, Donadoni and Ancelotti in midfield have been replaced by Albertini, Lennart and Simone; but now Gullit is withdrawn on the right into midfield and Simone is playing up front with van Basten. Interna-

tional players such as Eusebio and Eusebio are left on the bench, though Eusebio replaced Gullit after an hour and immediately set up the second goal for Simone.

The key to Milan's abrasive counter-attacking lay in Lennart on the left. He often combined brilliantly with Maldini and Simone, and Rijkaard on the right. Rijkaard seemed to have thrown off ten of his 30 years, and a PSV defence missing van Aarle, injured, and van Tiggelein, suspended, was in constant agony.

They still argue about how much Berlusconi paid for Lennart in the battle with Juventus to gain his signature from Torino. It is reckoned to have been £10 million. Lennart, rejecting his neighbouring club, Juventus, said he wanted "to win something". It looks as if both parties made the right decision.

THIS CHRISTMAS, PICK UP SOMETHING SPECIAL FROM BBC.

BBC WORLDWIDE

Christmas is the perfect time to take out a subscription to new BBC Worldwide magazine — for yourself, or as a gift for a friend. It's not only a comprehensive monthly guide to BBC World Service programmes and frequencies, but also a well written blend of in-depth previews and special features.

For your subscription of just £24 p.a., you'll also pick up a free BBC World Service World Time alarm clock, which shows the time in 22 different countries around the world.

So complete the coupon now, it's the ideal gift for Christmas.

Please send my free gift of BBC World Service World Time alarm clock and start my BBC Worldwide subscription immediately. Annual subscription £24. You can pay by cheque or postal order made payable to BBC Worldwide alternatively by credit card.

Barclaycard ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Eurocard ☐

AMEX ☐ Card No.

Expiry date Initials

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Address

Postcode

Date Signature

Please allow 6-10 weeks for your gift to arrive. This offer is only available to persons 18 years and over.

Return coupon to: BBC Worldwide, BBC World Service, PO Box 76, Bush House, Strand, London WC2B 4PH.

BBC WORLD SERVICE